

**Security Council**

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Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2299 (2016)**I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2299 (2016), in which the Secretary-General was requested to report every three months on progress made towards the fulfilment of the responsibilities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). It covers key developments related to Iraq and provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Iraq since the briefing of my Special Representative to the Security Council on 9 November 2016. My last report was issued on 25 October 2016 (S/2016/897).

II. Summary of key political developments pertaining to Iraq**A. Political situation**

2. In parallel with the ongoing military campaign against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Government of Iraq has been working on putting in place effective governance and security arrangements for post-liberation Ninawa. On 11 December, the Ninawa Provincial Council directed that all provincial government offices, many of which had been relocated to Erbil and Dahuk during the ISIL occupation, should move back to liberated areas of Ninawa. Provincial authorities resumed the delivery of services in retaken areas, with the Chair of the Provincial Council, Bashar Kiki, confirming on 23 November that provincial authorities had started working in the governorate to the extent that the security situation allowed. On the same day, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi affirmed in a session of the Council of Ministers that, upon liberation, Ninawa would be governed by civilian authorities. The Government also recommenced the recruitment of personnel for the Ninawa provincial police, with the intent of deploying them to secure liberated areas.

3. On 26 November, the Council of Representatives adopted the Popular Mobilization Commission Law, which establishes the popular mobilization forces as an independent military entity of the Iraqi armed forces under the command of the Commander-in-Chief, the Prime Minister. Of the 328 members of the Council of Representatives, 208 were present during the parliamentary session, including most



of the members of the National Alliance and the Sadrist Movement and some members of the Kurdistan Alliance. The law was endorsed by all of those present. Some proponents of the law argued that it would guarantee livelihood and legal cover for the popular mobilization forces, while at the same time bringing them under the control of the Government. The majority of the Iraqi Forces Coalition boycotted the parliamentary session, arguing that after the defeat of ISIL there would be no need for maintaining military entities outside the ministries of defence and the interior. The Government is currently working out the modalities for implementing the law.

4. Discussions about national reconciliation in Iraq have been ongoing since the National Alliance, the Shi'a parliamentary bloc, adopted its National Settlement Initiative on 30 October. Political leaders from the Sunni component met on 26 November and 13 December to exchange views on national reconciliation. On 26 December, the Speaker of Parliament, Salim al-Jubouri, and a number of representatives from the Iraqi Forces Coalition met with a delegation from the National Alliance, including its Chair, Ammar al-Hakim, to discuss the post-ISIL phase, as well as national reconciliation. At a joint press conference after the meeting, the parties emphasized the importance of a unified Iraq and an inclusive national reconciliation process.

5. On 7 December, the Council of Representatives approved the 2017 Federal Budget Law. Key disputed issues included allocations for the popular mobilization forces and the Kurdistan Regional Government, as well as demands from southern governorates. Under the budget, total expenditures are estimated at \$85 billion and total revenues at \$67 billion, leaving an \$18 billion deficit (or 21.6 per cent of the total budget). Planned oil exports are set at 3.75 million barrels per day, at a price of \$42 per barrel. This target is in line with the decision taken by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on 30 November, under which Iraq is committed to limiting its crude oil production level to 4.35 million barrels per day. On 5 December, the International Monetary Fund Executive Board completed its first review of the three-year stand-by arrangement for Iraq and disbursed a first amount of \$618 million, noting that the revised fiscal programme in 2016 and the 2017 budget were aligned with the stand-by arrangement.

6. The 2017 federal budget sets the total number of popular mobilization forces elements at 122,000 and provides a total budget of \$1.6 billion for the forces. According to the budget, the number of popular mobilization forces elements from governorates and areas affected by the armed conflict would be increased to ensure that each governorate is represented in a proportionate manner, while also maintaining a balance between the various communities within each governorate.

7. During the reporting period, lawmakers continued their deliberations on other important legislation, notably the draft components' rights law, formerly known as the minorities' rights law, and amendments to the General Amnesty Law of August 2016. Little progress was made in filling vacant ministerial positions in the ministries of defence, interior, finance, industry and trade. On 6 December, the Prime Minister announced that he would be putting forward nominations to the Council of Representatives for the vacant ministerial positions after it reconvened in January 2017. On 17 January, the Prime Minister appointed Abdul Razzaq al-Issa,

who is currently the Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research, as Acting Finance Minister.

8. On 10 November, the office of the three presidencies sent a letter to the Independent High Electoral Commission indicating that the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of Parliament had decided to postpone the Provincial Council elections, which were to be held in April 2017, to an undetermined date. In a letter to the Council of Representatives dated 24 November, the Commission indicated that it would be unable to conduct the Provincial Council elections in April 2017 as the Provincial Election Law had not yet been amended, internally displaced persons had not been duly registered and the necessary funds had not been allocated. The Commission further indicated that it could organize elections in the first half of September 2017, if adequate funding were provided without further delay. On 17 January, the Prime Minister confirmed to the Commission that the Provincial Council elections would take place on 16 September 2017.

9. The federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government have maintained close coordination and cooperation on the Mosul military operation, both through the Joint Coalition Coordination Centre in Erbil governorate and through regular and ad hoc high-level dialogue. The federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government resumed joint exportation of oil from Kirkuk governorate after reaching an agreement on 28 August to do so.

10. Concerning key outstanding issues between Baghdad and Erbil, the 2017 federal budget allocated a share of 17 per cent to the Kurdistan Regional Government, provided that it would export a total of 550,000 barrels per day of crude oil from the Kurdistan region of Iraq and Kirkuk governorate through the State Organization for the Marketing of Oil. This arrangement has been in place since 2015 but has not been implemented owing to disagreement over the modalities. The 2017 federal budget further stipulated that a census should be held in the Kurdistan region of Iraq in 2017 to determine the size of its population, which would constitute the basis for determining the size of its budget allocation. Furthermore, the 2017 federal budget stipulated that the Peshmerga would receive a percentage of the funds allocated to the Iraqi army, under a framework to be prepared in coordination between the General Command of the Iraqi Armed Forces and the Ministry of Peshmerga. On 8 December, the President of the Kurdistan region of Iraq, Masoud Barzani, stated that the article could be interpreted in multiple ways and criticized some political parties of the Kurdistan region of Iraq for having supported the budget.

11. Efforts to overcome political disagreements within the Kurdistan region of Iraq and to reactivate the Kurdistan Regional Parliament, which has been inactive since 12 October 2015, have continued. On 20 November, President Barzani called for consultations between political parties on a comprehensive proposal that included the reactivation of the Regional Parliament, appointment of a Speaker, formation of a new cabinet and appointment of an interim President. Political parties, including the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Movement for Change (Gorran) responded positively to the proposal, and President Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party has since then engaged in bilateral consultations with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and other parties. The Kurdistan Regional Government announced on 5 December that it would have to implement additional austerity

measures in 2017 in order not to further increase the budget deficit. Meanwhile, teachers and other public sector employees in Sulaymaniyah governorate continued their protests, which began in October, regarding the non-payment of their salaries.

B. Security

12. The Iraqi security forces, the Peshmerga, the popular mobilization forces and local fighters, with support from the international counter-ISIL coalition, have made steady progress in the fight against ISIL since military operations to liberate Mosul and Ninawa commenced on 17 October. The Iraqi security forces crossed the city limits of east Mosul on 1 November and have liberated and cleared a large number of neighbourhoods since then, despite fierce resistance from ISIL in the form of direct and indirect fire and asymmetric attacks. On 29 December, the Iraqi security forces announced the commencement of the second phase of their operations in Mosul, with air and artillery support from the international counter-ISIL coalition. Operations to liberate and clear terrain south of Mosul, including the east bank of Sharqat, continue.

13. The popular mobilization forces captured Tall Afar airfield on 16 November, and on 23 November conquered strategic positions near Tall Afar along the highway stretching between Mosul and Raqqah, Syrian Arab Republic, adjacent to the Peshmerga front. As a result, Mosul has been fully cut off from ISIL territory in western Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. On 24 November, the Government of Iraq and the Popular Mobilization Commission confirmed in statements that the town of Tall Afar would be liberated exclusively by the Iraqi security forces and local fighters. The popular mobilization forces also launched operations west of Tall Afar in order to extend their control over supply and escape routes towards the Syrian Arab Republic.

14. ISIL has maintained control of the Hawijah district in Kirkuk governorate and areas in western Anbar governorate, as well as a limited presence in Ninawa, Salah al-Din and Diyala governorates, in particular in rural areas. The organization continued to conduct asymmetric terrorist attacks against government facilities and security forces positions. It increasingly targeted civilians, especially in Baghdad, where by the end of the year attacks had become an almost daily occurrence. On 2 January, 41 civilians were killed and 71 injured in three bombings. A vehicle-borne bomb that detonated on 17 November during a wedding celebration at the residence of a popular mobilization forces commander in Fallujah, Anbar governorate, reportedly killed 17 people and wounded another 35. On 24 November, a truck rigged with explosives detonated at a fuel station south of Hillah, Babil governorate, killing at least 56 civilians and wounding 21 others. Victims included dozens of local and foreign pilgrims returning from Arba'in commemorations in Karbala'.

C. Regional and international developments

15. Iraq continued to engage with countries in the region and the wider international community to secure political, military, humanitarian and financial support. It also engaged with neighbouring countries and relevant international

organizations to discuss political and economic cooperation. Iraq handed over the presidency of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to Mali on 1 January 2017.

16. Iraqi officials and political leaders undertook a number of senior-level regional visits with a view to expanding bilateral relationships, including in the area of trade, and garnering political and military support. The Speaker of Parliament visited Jordan between 15 and 17 November, where he met with King Abdullah II and several officials to discuss bilateral relations and regional stability. The Prime Minister of the Kurdistan region of Iraq, Nechirvan Barzani, visited Ankara on 23 November, where he discussed Turkey-Kurdistan region of Iraq relations and the Mosul operation with the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the Prime Minister of Turkey, Binali Yıldırım. The Chancellor of the Security Council of the Kurdistan region of Iraq, Masrour Barzani, visited Washington, D.C., between 5 and 9 December and met with the Vice-President of the United States of America, Joseph Biden, and several other officials to discuss the fight against ISIL. The Chair of the National Alliance, Ammar al-Hakim, visited Jordan on 7 December and Tehran between 11 and 17 December to participate in the International Conference on Islamic Unity. On both occasions, he discussed the National Settlement Initiative of the National Alliance, as well as regional developments and the fight against ISIL. On 19 December, a senior Iraqi political delegation, including Vice-President Osama al-Nujaifi, Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq and the Speaker of Parliament, Salim al-Jubouri, met with King Abdullah in Amman. Vice-President Iyad Allawi met separately with King Abdullah on the same day. At both meetings, the importance of maintaining a unified Iraq was emphasized.

17. Several foreign officials visited Iraq during the reporting period. On 14 November, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, received the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan, Ibrahim Saif, to discuss the construction of gas and oil pipelines from Iraq to the Jordanian port of Aqabah. Between 1 and 3 December, the Minister of State at the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Rory Stewart, visited Iraq and met with President Masum in Baghdad and the President and the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan region of Iraq in Erbil. The Secretary of Defence of the United States, Ashton Carter, visited Erbil on 4 December and both Baghdad and Erbil on 11 December to discuss the fight against ISIL and post-liberation security arrangements with the Prime Minister of Iraq and the President of the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

18. On 18 and 19 December, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg visited Baghdad and met with the Prime Minister and their Iraqi counterpart, as well as with the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan region of Iraq in Erbil. The Minister of National Defence of Canada, Harjit Sajjan, met with the Prime Minister of Iraq in Baghdad and with the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan region of Iraq in Erbil on 20 and 21 December, respectively. On 2 January, the President of France, François Hollande, accompanied by the Minister of Defence, Jean-Yves Le Drian, visited Iraq, where he met with the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of Parliament of Iraq in Baghdad, as well as with the President of the Kurdistan region of Iraq in Erbil, to discuss the fight against ISIL and preparations for the post-liberation phase. On 8 January, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer, visited Iraq and discussed

the protection of civilians and prisoners during armed conflict with the Prime Minister of Iraq and with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Between 8 and 10 January, the Minister of Defence, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, and the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Liliane Ploumen, of the Netherlands visited Iraq to discuss progress in the fight against ISIL and the humanitarian situation. On 9 January, the Prime Minister of Jordan, Hani al-Mulki, and an accompanying delegation visited Baghdad, where they discussed a wide range of issues with the Prime Minister of Iraq, including trade and cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

19. Iraq and Turkey continued to address the presence of Turkish troops in northern Iraq as well as Turkish concerns over the presence of members of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) near Sinjar, Ninawa governorate, through an intensive bilateral dialogue that culminated in the visit of the Prime Minister of Turkey, Binali Yıldırım, and an accompanying ministerial delegation to Baghdad on 7 January and to Erbil on 8 January. The visit resulted in a nine-point joint statement. In the statement, Iraq and Turkey agreed to promote security and stability as well as to fight terrorism together, while respecting each other's sovereignty. Both sides acknowledged that Ba'shiqah camp was an Iraqi facility, and in this regard Turkey reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq. In addition, the two countries affirmed the importance of increased cooperation concerning trade, culture and tourism, as well as increased cooperation in managing the Tigris and Euphrates waters.

20. Turkish air strikes against PKK targets in the Kurdistan region of Iraq continued during the reporting period. On 27 and 29 November, Turkey targeted PKK positions in Dahuk and Erbil governorates. On 6 January, Turkey targeted PKK positions in Erbil governorate. No casualties were reported and the damage to properties and infrastructure remains unclear.

21. The sixth session of the Kuwait-Iraq Joint Ministerial Committee, aimed at further bolstering cooperation between the two countries, was held in Baghdad on 27 and 28 December. The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Ibrahim al-Jaafari, signed three memorandums of understanding covering security, industry and transportation, as well as a programme of work on cultural cooperation. In the subsequent high-level meetings with the President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker of Parliament of Iraq, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah reiterated his country's full support for Iraq's fight against terrorism, commending the progress achieved by the Iraqi security forces.

22. Leading members and supporters of the international counter-ISIL coalition met on 10 November in Copenhagen and on 17 November in Berlin as part of their quarterly schedule to discuss political, stabilization and humanitarian issues and to reflect on the strategic direction of the coalition. My Deputy Special Representative for Development and Humanitarian Affairs joined both meetings and gave a presentation on progress in stabilizing newly liberated areas and on the humanitarian situation. Participants commended the Government of Iraq for its commitment to civilian protection during the Mosul liberation operation and praised the military gains of Iraq against ISIL.

III. Update on the activities of the Mission and the United Nations country team

A. Political activities

23. My Special Representative continued his engagement with government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of political parties, civil society and religious and community leaders to promote inclusive political dialogue and national reconciliation. In all his meetings, he emphasized that reconciliation at the national and community levels would be needed in order to consolidate military progress against ISIL and to achieve sustainable peace. He called on political, community and tribal leaders to unify for a future in which all Iraqis could live together in equality, justice, peace and tolerance. He also highlighted the obligation to protect the rights of all Iraqi people in accordance with international law and to ensure justice for the victims of crimes and accountability for the perpetrators as an important part of rebuilding trust between communities.

24. My Special Representative continued his engagement with Iraqi parties, including with leaders from the Sunni component, on national reconciliation, notably on the National Settlement Initiative put forward by the National Alliance. He requested all parties to consider the Initiative, provide comments and develop a vision for national reconciliation. He also visited Jordan and Saudi Arabia and availed himself of opportunities provided by international security conferences in the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to solicit regional views and support for renewed national reconciliation efforts in Iraq, among other issues. In addition, UNAMI engaged at the grass-roots level, through a series of roundtables on national reconciliation, to solicit the views of community leaders, academics, youth, women and intellectuals across the country. The first three of six roundtables were held during November and December in Erbil, Fallujah and Karbala'. Similar efforts, coordinated through the joint reconciliation task force, are being undertaken by the United Nations country team, especially the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), focusing on community and social reconciliation.

25. In preparation for the post-ISIL period, my Special Representative has engaged widely with stakeholders from Ninawa governorate on its political future, including with women, and representatives of religious and ethnic minorities and civil society. Many representatives highlighted the importance of reinforcing existing provincial structures and the need to ensure the safe, voluntary and dignified return of internally displaced persons to their homes as a necessary prerequisite for reconciliation. Interlocutors at all levels stressed the need to strengthen and, where necessary, establish mechanisms to promote transitional justice and truth-telling, address grievances and ensure compensation as well as the provision of psychosocial services.

26. In an ongoing effort to facilitate dialogue between the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government, my Special Representative continued to meet regularly with representatives of both Governments and with relevant political leaders. He commended the unprecedented cooperation between Baghdad and Erbil

in the fight against ISIL and urged both parties to extend such cooperation to cover all outstanding political, economic and administrative issues. He also committed to providing his good offices to facilitate a resolution of the political and constitutional crisis in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

27. My Special Representative continued to discuss the presence of Turkish troops in northern Iraq and Turkish concerns over Tall Afar and Mosul with the Government of Iraq and Turkish interlocutors in Baghdad and during his trips abroad. He underscored the need to accelerate bilateral efforts to find a mutually acceptable solution that would fully respect the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, while taking into account the security concerns of both countries.

28. As part of the outreach efforts undertaken by UNAMI, my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and Electoral visited Basrah and Muthanna governorates between 8 and 10 January where he met with provincial officials and a number of tribal and civil society representatives. Discussions focused on the political, economic and security situation in the governorates as well as the issue of national reconciliation. The interlocutors requested the United Nations to strengthen its presence and expand its programmes in the governorates.

29. UNAMI continued its efforts to promote women's rights in Iraq in support of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). UNAMI engaged with the Government on the joint communiqué on prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence in Iraq, which was signed on 23 September. On 27 November, my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance participated in the Iraqi launch of the annual international 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence Campaign. Speaking at the launch in Baghdad, my Deputy Special Representative emphasized that the protection of women and girls should be central to all peacebuilding and justice-seeking efforts in the post-ISIL period, and called for the full participation of women in reconciliation processes at the national and community levels. He also underscored the importance of continued efforts to change negative social norms, end harmful practices and promote respect for the rights of women and girls, including through engagement with religious and community leaders.

30. On 2 December, as part of the promotion of cohesion, peaceful coexistence and national reconciliation, UNAMI marked the International Day for Tolerance with an event attended by a wide range of stakeholders, including religious and cultural leaders, diplomats, civil society representatives and youth groups. In his speech, my Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance underlined that the healing of the wounds inflicted by ISIL and previous conflicts could only be achieved by celebrating diversity and promoting the values of tolerance, unity and compassion.

31. As co-chairs of the Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict, UNAMI and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) continued to encourage the Government to establish an interministerial committee on grave violations of the rights of children to facilitate a direct dialogue between the United Nations, government representatives and other parties to discuss and address violations, action plans and conclusions of the Security Council Working Group on children and armed conflict.

B. Electoral assistance

32. Amid discussions over the timing of the forthcoming elections, the Independent High Electoral Commission continued to conduct technical preparations for the Provincial Council elections with support from UNAMI. The Commission decided to extend the closure of biometric voter registration until 28 February 2017 to enable more Iraqis to visit registration centres. As at 29 December, 212 political parties had submitted their applications for registration in accordance with the August 2015 Political Parties Law, and the biometric data of over 9,041,000 voters had been updated in the voter registry database. The special registration process for internally displaced voters continued, with over 241,000 registered as at the same date. The Commission also commenced biometric voter registration of the security forces in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

33. Reform of the legal and institutional framework for elections remained on the parliamentary agenda. My Special Representative engaged on the matter with the Independent High Electoral Commission, the Legal Committee of the Council of Representatives and government and other political leaders. He urged that reform should take place soon to provide sufficient time for the Commission to prepare for the elections. He also stressed that an adequate budget needs to be provided to the Commission in a timely manner. UNAMI met on several occasions with the office of the three presidencies, which is formulating a draft amendment of the Council of Representatives Elections Law. While decisions on these matters remain the prerogative of Iraq, UNAMI continues to provide expert technical advice.

C. Human rights developments and activities

34. Armed conflict, terrorism and acts of violence continue to take a terrible toll in terms of loss of civilian lives and injuries. Between 10 November and 21 December, at least 710 civilian men, women and children were killed and at least 1,449 wounded, bringing the total number of civilian casualties in Iraq since the beginning of the armed conflict in January 2014 to at least 76,893 (26,646 killed and 50,274 wounded).

35. As more civilians are liberated from ISIL, the extent of the human rights violations committed is becoming evident. UNAMI has received innumerable reports of serious and systematic violations of international humanitarian law and gross abuses of human rights perpetrated by ISIL. The organization continued to use civilians and civilian infrastructure and private homes as shields. In contravention of international law, ISIL conducted organized terrorist activities directly targeting civilians, including shelling civilian locations and using snipers to kill civilians attempting to flee areas under its control.

36. ISIL carried out systematic forced transfers of civilians as it withdrew from areas in the face of the Iraqi security forces' advances during the Mosul operation. ISIL continued to forcibly move people from subdistricts around and inside Mosul. For example, on 9 November, ISIL reportedly forcibly moved 42 families from their homes in the Faysaliyah area of eastern Mosul to the western side of the city. On 25 November, ISIL reportedly ordered residents of the Tayaran and Jawsaq areas in southern Mosul to leave their homes within 24 hours. On 2 December, ISIL forcibly

displaced residents of the Barid area in eastern Mosul to the western part of the city. Witnesses informed UNAMI that many of these civilians were forced to accompany ISIL convoys transporting fighters and weapons, or were held in strategic locations where ISIL fighters were based.

37. The situation in Mosul is a serious concern. On 3 December, ISIL forcibly entered civilians' houses in the Kafa'at and Akha' neighbourhoods of eastern Mosul while ISIL fighters were deployed on the roofs of their houses to fire mortars on Iraqi security forces positions. The civilians were forced to stay in their houses. An unattributed mortar round reportedly hit a house in the Kafa'at neighbourhood, wounding two children. ISIL also threatened civilians with being used as human shields if they disobeyed its orders. For example on 12 and 13 November, ISIL reportedly ordered the residents of the Muharibin and Tahrir areas of eastern Mosul to leave their homes and move to downtown Mosul. ISIL told residents that non-compliance would result in the use of female family members as human shields.

38. ISIL carried out mass abductions of civilians, including former members of the Iraqi security forces and their families, persons whose family members had joined pro-government forces and others that it suspected of not supporting its ideology. For example, on 16 November, ISIL reportedly abducted 16 civilians in the Qadisiyah al-Ula area of eastern Mosul. The abductees were allegedly accused of cooperating with the Iraqi security forces. On 27 November, ISIL abducted 23 shopkeepers in the Bursa area of Mosul for allegedly raising food prices.

39. Scores of civilians have been killed by ISIL. In the evening of 9 November, ISIL shot and killed 20 civilians at the Ghabat military base. It then hung the victims' bodies at different intersections in the city, attaching placards to their chests stating, among other things, that the victims had used mobile phones to contact the Iraqi security forces. On 11 November, ISIL reportedly killed 12 civilians in the Bakr area of eastern Mosul for refusing to allow ISIL to install and launch rockets from the rooftops of their houses. On 25 November, ISIL killed 27 civilians in Muhandisin Park in northern Mosul for allegedly cooperating with the Iraqi security forces. On 29 November, ISIL reportedly shot and killed 13 civilians in the centre of Tall Afar for allegedly cooperating with government forces. ISIL reportedly paraded the victims around the city, threatening residents that such would be the fate of those cooperating with the Iraqi security forces.

40. ISIL has continued to recruit and use children. UNAMI has received reports from families in Mosul that ISIL has demanded that they surrender male children aged 10 years and above to fight for the group. ISIL also has reportedly been using children to carry out killings. On 9 November, the ISIL "Wilayat al-Jazeera media office" posted a disturbing video on social media showing four children, estimated to be between 10 to 12 years of age, shooting and killing four civilians for allegedly spying for the Iraqi security forces and the Peshmerga.

41. According to community sources, there may be 1,882 Yazidi women and children who remain in ISIL enslavement. ISIL allegedly brought an unspecified number of Yazidi women to Tall Afar in November, placed them in a school and sold some of them to its fighters. UNAMI continues to receive reports that Yazidi women and children are being relocated to various locations within Iraq and to Raqqah, Syrian Arab Republic.

42. As more territory is retaken from ISIL, mass graves continue to be uncovered. On 10 November, the Iraqi Federal Police discovered a mass grave on the grounds of the Agriculture College building in Hammam al-Alil subdistrict, Ninawa governorate, that was estimated to include at least 400 corpses, some of which belonged to women and children.

43. UNAMI also received a small number of reports of violations committed by government and pro-government forces, and has referred these cases to the Government of Iraq for investigation. UNAMI has reiterated that the Government must do its utmost to prevent such incidents from occurring and to investigate and hold accountable the perpetrators of such acts. UNAMI has also received reports of civilians being killed and injured as a result of government operations and air strikes carried out by the Iraqi and international counter-ISIL coalition air forces. For example, on 7 December, air strikes hit ISIL-held Qa'im, western Anbar, killing and wounding dozens of civilians. However, owing to the lack of direct access and the lack of reliable first-hand sources, UNAMI has not been able to determine the scale of such casualties.

44. Following the establishment on 6 June 2016 of a committee to investigate any violations and crimes committed against civilians in the course of the military operation in Fallujah, particularly the alleged disappearance of 643 men and teenage boys from Saqlawiyah in Anbar governorate, UNAMI continued to urge the Government to make public any findings by the committee, the steps taken to determine the whereabouts and conditions of any missing individuals and the measures implemented to hold the perpetrators to account. Despite requests by UNAMI, the Government has not yet released any information on the status of the committee or its findings.

45. The Task Force on Children and Armed Conflict, co-chaired by UNAMI and UNICEF, received reports of 52 incidents of violence against children, affecting 803 children, between 10 November and 27 December. The majority of those incidents were reported to have taken place in the course of military operations in Ninawa, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk governorates. Of those incidents, 36, affecting 62 children, could be verified at the time of preparation of the present report. Killing and maiming continued to be the most reported violations, with 24 children confirmed killed and 38 maimed. Reports of another 9 children killed and 28 maimed remain under verification. The Task Force also received information concerning two incidents of attacks on schools and three on hospitals during the reporting period, while four incidents of military use of schools and one of military use of hospitals were reported. Four cases of recruitment and use of children were reported, none of which could be verified.

46. UNAMI continues to undertake vigorous advocacy with the Government of Iraq to ensure that the protection of civilians from the effects of armed conflict is at the forefront of the planning of military operations. On a number of occasions, the Prime Minister of Iraq publicly reiterated his Government's commitment to the protection of civilians and to ensuring justice and accountability for any human rights violations and abuses committed in relation to the conflict.

47. In this context, the Government of Iraq has announced that security screening of civilians fleeing ISIL areas would be conducted only by lawfully authorized authorities in clearly identified locations and would be conducted in a transparent

manner. The United Nations continues to monitor the screening process by visiting screening sites to observe the process, engaging with officials to raise any concerns noted during such visits and meeting with Iraqis who have been subject to vetting to learn of their experiences.

48. The Iraqi authorities reportedly continued to carry out death sentences. On 24 November, eight prisoners convicted of terrorism-related crimes were reportedly executed in the Nasiriyah prison in Dhi Qar governorate. The executions were not confirmed publicly by the Iraqi authorities, raising concerns about transparency in the administration of justice in conformity with international standards. The United Nations has repeatedly called on the Government of Iraq to impose a moratorium on all death sentences and executions.

49. On 26 December, Iraqi journalist Afrah Shawqi was abducted from her home by unidentified gunmen. The following day, the Prime Minister called for an investigation of the incident and for prosecution of the perpetrators. Ms. Shawqi was released on 3 January.

D. Humanitarian assistance, stabilization and development

50. Since the beginning of the Mosul military operation on 17 October, more than 115,000 people, nearly half of them children under 18 years of age, had fled the fighting as at 27 December, with the overwhelming majority seeking safety in more than 20 emergency sites and camps run by the Government of Iraq, the United Nations and partners. It has been estimated that close to 1.2 million civilians remain in the city. They are at extreme risk, especially the 400,000 to 500,000 people in the densely populated sections of Mosul, where some of the most difficult and intense fighting is still likely to occur. Children are particularly vulnerable to injury, death and denial of access to basic rights, including health care and education.

51. The number of civilian trauma casualties is rising rapidly. On average, 700 people per week were referred to Erbil hospitals owing to injuries and nearly 40 per cent of them were civilians. The nature of the injuries, which included young children and women shot in the face, chest and neck, suggested a clear pattern of direct targeting. While all government forces involved in the Mosul military operation continued to prioritize protection of civilians, ISIL deliberately targeted civilians and used them as human shields. With fighting intensifying, humanitarian partners are preparing for the possibility of a prolonged siege, an increase in mass casualties, hunger and widespread deprivation.

52. Conflict and insecurity continued to displace people in other parts of Iraq, including Kirkuk governorate. Between 9 November and 27 December, almost 17,000 people, half of them children, fled the Hawijah district. Forced evictions significantly decreased during the reporting period; however, identification documents continued to be confiscated, restricting people's freedom of movement and access to services.

53. Despite difficult operating conditions, the United Nations and partners continued to work around the clock to support the federal Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to respond to the humanitarian crisis. Humanitarian agencies provided assistance to more than 2 million vulnerable civilians across Iraq

each month, including displaced persons, families returning home and people living in host communities. Partners reduced their response times and provided life-saving emergency aid close to the front lines on an almost daily basis.

54. Since the Mosul military operations began, partners have provided emergency packages containing food, water, purification tablets, high energy biscuits and hygiene and dignity items to 356,000 people within 48 hours of their displacement, or, for those who were not displaced, as soon as areas became accessible. By 27 December, more than 83,000 people were living in camps and emergency sites near Mosul, supported by humanitarian partners. Tented schools were open, providing for more than 9,000 newly displaced school-age children, and protection services were provided to 128,000 displaced people, including psychosocial support for 14,000 children.

55. The Mine Action Service of the United Nations and its partners continued to minimize the impact of explosive hazard contamination by surveying and clearing areas and conducting risk awareness. Between 27 October and 27 December, the Service participated in 50 United Nations inter-agency assessment missions and missions led by non-governmental organizations in Sharqat (Salah al-Din governorate) and in Qayyarah and Shurah (both part of Ninawa governorate) to determine appropriate locations for displacement camp sites and to facilitate the distribution of aid.

56. Despite generous donations, major gaps still exist in the humanitarian response. The Mosul flash appeal, launched in July to prepare ahead of the military operations, received \$235 million, or 83 per cent of the \$284 million requested. The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan received \$676 million, 80 per cent of the \$861 million requirement, to support 7.3 million vulnerable Iraqis. Recognizing the scale of the need for continued humanitarian assistance, partners have prepared a Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017 targeting 5.8 million of the nearly 11 million Iraqis who will require some form of assistance in the year ahead.

57. In a positive development, people continued to return in large numbers to newly liberated areas. More than 1.2 million people have returned to their homes in the last 18 months, including approximately 500,000 people who have returned to Ramadi, Fallujah and Karmah in Anbar governorate. A total of 574,000 have returned to Anbar governorate, 366,000 to Salah al-Din governorate, 193,000 to Diyala governorate and 181,000 to Ninawa governorate.

58. Immediate stabilization support to towns and cities liberated from ISIL continued to expand during the reporting period. The UNDP Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization is currently operational in 18 liberated towns and districts and has expanded operations in Hadithah, Hit, Rutbah (Anbar governorate), Sharqat (Salah al-Din governorate) and in areas outside Mosul city (Ninawa governorate). More than 320 projects are simultaneously under way in Anbar, Ninawa, Salah al-Din and Diyala governorates aimed at rehabilitating basic grids, putting people to work, helping businesses reopen, boosting government capacity and facilitating community-level reconciliation. The first projects under the expanded stabilization channel of the Funding Facility are expected to start in early 2017. They are aimed at rehabilitating medium-sized public institutions, which generate large numbers of jobs in newly liberated cities, and stabilizing the agricultural, transport and electrical corridors between liberated districts. In preparation for the liberation of

Mosul, the Funding Facility is pre-positioning equipment worth \$40 million, including electrical supplies, water treatment equipment and health equipment, and is recruiting teams of planners, engineers and technicians to deploy into each of the city's eight subdistricts as soon as they are liberated. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and UNICEF are also working in newly liberated areas, rebuilding agricultural systems, helping destitute families repair damaged homes and supporting education. A number of humanitarian agencies, including the World Food Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, are assisting returning families. The Mine Action Service has helped to ensure that 10,000 people returning to their homes in Anbar governorate received risk awareness messages in displacement camps and schools.

59. Under the leadership of the office of the Prime Minister, UNDP worked to strengthen the capacity of the Federal Integrity Commission to investigate high-profile corruption cases pursuant to the agreement signed with the federal Government in August 2016. These efforts have been part of the Government's overall agenda to combat corruption and reinforce its reform agenda. Intensive investigations are under way on five corruption cases that involve misuse of national assets worth hundreds of millions of dollars. More cases will be investigated in 2017. In addition, an assessment was carried out of the effectiveness of the General Inspector Offices in the prevention of corruption.

60. Discussions are already under way with the Government to revise the United Nations Development Assistance Framework as soon as ISIL is expelled from the country. Working groups on preventing violent extremism, promoting social protection, curbing community-level violence and restoring education and health services will accelerate their work in the first quarter of 2017, with the intention of finalizing a new framework by midyear.

E. Security and operational issues

61. The United Nations in Iraq continues to work in a high-risk and highly fluid security environment and to implement programmes and activities based on programme criticality. Demands for humanitarian assistance and immediate stabilization continue to increase as more areas are regained from ISIL control. ISIL continues to employ asymmetric attacks against security forces and civilian targets across Iraq, and United Nations programmes and personnel remain at a high risk of collateral damage. A security support cell was activated in Erbil to support humanitarian activities related to the Mosul operations. From 10 November to 23 December, 134 missions were conducted, including 6 at very high and 70 at high residual risk. The United Nations security management system continues to work closely with relevant security agencies to ensure that appropriate security measures remain in place during all missions.

62. The construction of a new integrated compound in Baghdad is ongoing. Over 100 residential accommodations are under construction and expected to be completed by June 2017. In addition, a further 100 accommodation units and 250 office spaces are at the planning stage. Similar efforts are being undertaken in Erbil to support the current humanitarian surge and future requirements.

IV. Observations

63. Sustainable peace and stability in Iraq can only be achieved through genuine dialogue conducted in a spirit of cooperation, compromise and mutual respect. As I have stated elsewhere, only inclusive political solutions can ensure enduring and sustainable peace and security.

64. I therefore welcome the National Settlement Initiative of the National Alliance, with its stated objective for Iraq to be "a common house for all its people and all components". The initiative has triggered a broad discussion on national settlement within Iraqi political and social circles. Many groups, including the main Iraqi components, civil society and minority communities are preparing similar position papers and initiatives. My Special Representative has commenced broad consultations on a national settlement to foster support for national reconciliation, both inside Iraq and in the region.

65. Peace, stability and prosperity for all Iraqis can only be achieved on the basis of equal rights, opportunities, accountability and justice for all. I encourage leaders of all communities and groups to embrace a spirit of partnership and equality, genuine goodwill and adherence to a give-and-take approach, and to present their views and visions for national reconciliation and work closely with my Special Representative towards this objective. I also urge and welcome the support of countries of the region for national settlement.

66. With progress in the Mosul liberation operation, it is increasingly important to ensure adequate governance and security arrangements for Ninawa, which are vital prerequisites for the peaceful interaction among all components in the governorate and the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons to their homes. I take note of and support the Prime Minister's encouragement of the provincial authorities to resume their responsibilities and return to Ninawa governorate to the extent possible, as well as his commitment to mobilizing and providing all the support necessary from the federal Government.

67. I am pleased with the level of coordination and cooperation between the Iraqi security forces and the Peshmerga, and commend the Prime Minister of Iraq and the President of the Kurdistan region of Iraq for their efforts in this regard. This provides a sound basis for cooperation between Baghdad and Erbil on a range of other political and governance issues, which will be critical during the post-ISIL phase. A long-term joint vision and the ability to put forward durable solutions to outstanding issues would benefit all Iraqi communities. I urge the two leaders to engage in concerted dialogue on outstanding issues, including oil exports and revenue-sharing, as well as on the matters of the disputed internal boundaries and the return of internally displaced persons to their places of origin, in accordance with humanitarian and human rights principles.

68. I am concerned that despite the intensified efforts of political leaders in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, the political impasse has persisted. I welcome President Barzani's political initiative of 20 November, and I reiterate my call on the political leaders of the Kurdistan region of Iraq to engage in dialogue, end the political stalemate expeditiously and normalize the functioning of the Kurdistan Regional

Parliament and the Kurdistan Regional Government, to resolve the issue of the Presidency.

69. I am encouraged by the increasingly productive dialogue between the Governments of Iraq and Turkey to identify a mutually acceptable solution regarding the presence of Turkish troops in northern Iraq that fully respects the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, meets both countries' security concerns and ensures that all activities conducted in Iraq are undertaken in coordination with and with the full agreement of the Government of Iraq.

70. While military operations against ISIL are showing good progress, Iraqi citizens continue to call for better service delivery, fair and equal treatment, and transparent governance devoid of corruption, political patronage and nepotism. Notwithstanding some encouraging steps in this regard, further substantive progress on the Government's reform agenda is required. I urge the political blocs, civil society and other stakeholders to cooperate with the Prime Minister to accelerate this process.

71. I also underscore the importance of women's participation in decision-making spanning the entire spectrum of relevant issues, from stabilization and reconstruction to transition plans and national reconciliation. I urge the Government of Iraq to implement fully the joint communiqué on prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence in Iraq.

72. I welcome the progress on the legislative agenda, in particular the timely passage of the 2017 Federal Budget Law. I take note of the adoption of the Popular Mobilization Commission Law, which provides a legal framework for the popular mobilization forces. I urge political blocs to move forward and to reach an understanding on the modalities for implementing the law, with the aim of accommodating the concerns of all sides. I call upon the Government and the Council of Representatives to redouble their efforts to pass outstanding legislation, including the justice and accountability law and the components' rights law.

73. I also take this opportunity to call upon Iraqi leaders to ensure that an appropriate legal and institutional framework for the elections is put in place in a timely manner to facilitate the operational planning of the Independent High Electoral Commission. I urge adherence to the principle of inclusivity and the promotion of women's active participation in politics. The United Nations stands ready to provide any technical assistance required.

74. I commend the Government for the steps it has taken to ensure that the protection of civilians is at the forefront of military planning and in the conduct of anti-ISIL operations. I reiterate my call on the Government and all supporting parties to remain vigilant and to do their utmost to ensure that the rights of civilians are protected during operations. I urge the Government to investigate any reported violations of humanitarian and human rights laws and norms, bring perpetrators to justice and deal with such issues with the transparency necessary to instil confidence that no violation will remain unanswered. I urge all forces involved in the Mosul campaign to observe international human rights standards with regard to detainees suspected of terrorism and support to ISIL, so as to create an atmosphere conducive to social reconciliation in the post-ISIL period. It is also critical that the

international community support the Government's attempts to ensure that any individual committing crimes is properly held to account. Failure to do so will only deepen tensions and prevent long-term community and national reconciliation.

75. I am concerned about the toll that the armed conflict has taken on civilians and the corrosive effect the violence has on a range of fundamental human rights. Women and children, people with disabilities, members of diverse ethnic and religious communities and older persons continue to be severely affected by armed conflict, terrorism and violence. Women, and particularly those who are members of minority ethnic and religious communities, continue to be targeted for crimes by ISIL. There are credible reports of ISIL committing organized, systematic and gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by using civilians to shield its fighters or places of strategic interest from attacks by Government forces or to ensure maximum civilian casualties as a result of military operations. I condemn these cowardly actions by ISIL in the strongest possible terms.

76. Iraq also continues to face challenges in terms of access to justice, compliance with due process and fair trials standards, lack of equal access to basic services, and issues relating to respect and protection of the rights of women, children, people with disabilities, diverse ethnic and religious communities and journalists and people of other professions. I emphasize that it is fundamentally important to address the human rights and rule of law issues that are the root causes of ongoing cycles of violence. It will be essential to seek to rebuild trust within and between communities by focusing on common human rights issues, such as access to justice and basic services and formal and informal justice mechanisms that ensure the care and protection of the victims and survivors of human rights violations and abuses, as well as the accountability of the perpetrators of such crimes. It will also be crucial to assist communities devastated by violence by ensuring that all displaced persons can return to their places of origin in dignity and safety and in full compliance with applicable humanitarian standards and providing for programmes that assist in the rebuilding and reconstruction of such communities.

77. I commend donors for their contributions to humanitarian operations, but note with concern that funding levels still fall far short of requirements. The Humanitarian Response Plan in Iraq is one of the most highly prioritized plans for the United Nations; any shortfall forces agencies and partners to cut back on or close life-saving programmes. Many critical operations, including approximately 400 front-line health clinics, had to be closed during 2016 owing to a lack of funding. Given that millions of Iraqi civilians are dependent on humanitarian support, including the more than 1 million estimated to be trapped in Mosul, I call upon Member States to redouble their efforts to generously fund humanitarian programmes throughout the country.

78. I am encouraged by the efforts of the Government, supported by Member States and the United Nations, to facilitate the return of more than 1 million Iraqis to newly liberated areas. I am aware that up to 4 million Iraqis may be displaced from their homes by the end of the conflict and concerned that social reconciliation will be delayed unless communities are rebuilt. Accordingly, I call for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of families and underline the importance of moving beyond immediate stabilization to the full restoration of services, the revitalization of the economy and the formulation of the structural reforms necessary to ensure

that Iraq continues on its path towards peace, stability, prosperity and sustainable development.

79. Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my Special Representative for Iraq, Ján Kubiš, my two Deputy Special Representatives and all the United Nations national and international staff in Iraq for their dedicated efforts to fulfil the United Nations mandate in Iraq under challenging circumstances.

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Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its tenth session**I. Introduction**

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), in which the Peacebuilding Commission was requested to submit an annual report to the General Assembly for an annual debate and review. The report will also be submitted to the Council, pursuant to its resolution 1646 (2005), for an annual debate. The report covers the tenth session of the Commission, held from 1 January to 31 December 2016.

2. On 27 April 2016, the General Assembly and the Security Council adopted parallel, substantively identical, resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)), by which the two organs, inter alia, requested the Peacebuilding Commission to include, in its annual reports, information on progress made in reviewing its working methods and provisional rules of procedure and encouraged the Commission, through its Organizational Committee, to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of sustaining peace. The structure and content of the present report therefore includes information on the work undertaken by the Commission in implementing the relevant recommendations contained in the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, while also reflecting the priorities identified in the annual report of the Commission on its ninth session (A/70/714-S/2016/115).

II. Work of the Peacebuilding Commission**A. Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: opportunities and challenges**

3. The Commission embarked on the work of its tenth session in the spirit of examining the far-reaching recommendations of the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Review of the Peacebuilding Architecture (A/69/968-S/2015/490)



and implementing the above-mentioned resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council. Both the Assembly and the Council, in those resolutions, define sustaining peace as:

a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development, and emphasizing that sustaining peace is a shared task and responsibility that needs to be fulfilled by the Government and all other national stakeholders, and should flow through all three pillars of the United Nations engagement at all stages of conflict, and in all its dimensions, and needs sustained international attention and assistance

In those resolutions, the Assembly and the Council also called for the strengthening of the Commission, its convening and bridging role and its partnerships with other stakeholders, including the international financial institutions, in addition to addressing country-specific situations. They also called for better intergovernmental coherence, partnerships and operational and policy coherence and invited the Secretary-General to provide options on increasing, restructuring and better prioritizing funding dedicated to United Nations peacebuilding activities.

4. Throughout the reporting period, the Commission continued to address the situations in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Since the eruption of the political crisis in Burundi in 2015, the Commission has intensified its focus on that country. Through visits to Burundi and the region, the Council's Burundi configuration has engaged with the Government and national stakeholders, encouraging a peaceful solution by Burundians, with regional and international support, including that of the African Union, the East African Community and neighbouring countries. During his two visits to Burundi and the region, the Chair of the Burundi configuration also engaged the authorities of the United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda, the African Union and the mediator of the East African Community, the former President of the Republic of Tanzania, Benjamin Mkapa, highlighting the importance of a holistic peacebuilding approach based on the three pillars of the United Nations system, as they are outlined, *inter alia*, in General Assembly resolution 60/251, and of local capacities for peace, including the constructive work of the group of women mediators. In another example of the convening power of the Commission, and its capacity to add value, it championed policy discussions on the economic impact of the political crisis in Burundi, including through consultations in Geneva on the country's socioeconomic situation, briefings with officials from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Government authorities in charge of finance and the economy, and with representatives of the private sector in Burundi, with a focus on relations between the Government and its international partners.

5. On the Central African Republic, the Commission sought to sustain the political momentum offered by the peaceful conduct of elections in 2016 through its engagement in a peacebuilding and recovery process. The Chair of the Central

African Republic configuration attended the ninth meeting of the International Contact Group on the Central African Republic, supported the process of mobilizing partners around the national recovery and peacebuilding plan and convened a meeting, on 2 November 2016, in preparation for the donors conference of Brussels, attended by the two main partners of the conference, the European Union and the World Bank, which helped to highlight the urgent need for support for the country. At the Brussels conference for the Central African Republic, held on 17 November 2016, the international community came together to signal its renewed engagement and support for the country by pledging over €2 billion for the implementation of the comprehensive National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan 2017-2021.

6. With regard to Guinea, the Commission focused on efforts aimed at consolidating the gains achieved over the past five years. The Guinea configuration organized a policy discussion on the reform of the justice sector through a meeting with the Guinean Minister of Justice in May 2016, providing the Government with a platform to present its strategy in the area of justice, and an opportunity for partners to respond in terms of political support and financial resources. In an important initiative, in line with the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the Commission and the Government of Guinea have initiated a review of their engagement in order to highlight progress made and lessons learned, and to guide the decision on the future engagement of Guinea with the Commission. In this context, a delegation from the Commission, composed of representatives of Burkina Faso, Guinea and Japan, visited Guinea from 20 to 25 November 2016. The delegation discussed the priorities of future engagement with the Government of Guinea, as well as its possible form, taking into account the recommendation contained in the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture that the Commission consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility. The conclusions and recommendations of the review will be considered by the Commission in January 2017.

7. With regard to the situation in Guinea-Bissau, the Commission continued to mobilize its members, especially regional actors, to mitigate the fragile situation as well as any possible recurrence of tensions. Aligning itself with the efforts led by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Commission supported the subregional efforts and provided input to the deliberations of the Security Council. It also maintained focus on the follow-up to the donors round table of 2015, at which the Government of Guinea-Bissau presented a national strategy of social progress for the next 10 years, aimed at the promotion of governance and institutional reforms based on inclusiveness and tolerance, as well as on the sustainable and equitable use of its natural capital and resources.

8. In partnership with the Government of Liberia, key stakeholders and United Nations actors, the Commission prioritized two issues during the reporting period: the revision of the 2010 statement of mutual commitments (SMC) between the Government of Liberia and the Commission and the articulation of its advice to the Security Council on peacebuilding priorities that need to be taken into consideration during and beyond the political transition of 2017 in Liberia and the transition of the presence of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Comprehensive and inclusive consultations with a broad range of national and international stakeholders in Liberia and within the United Nations system led to a revised statement of mutual commitments, which was endorsed by the Government of Liberia and the

Commission and rolled out in May 2016. The peacebuilding priority areas identified in the revised statement of mutual commitments are: security sector development; strengthening the rule of law; promoting national reconciliation; and peaceful and inclusive elections in 2017. In anticipation of the deliberations by the Security Council on the future of UNMIL in December 2016, the Vice-Chair of the Commission visited Liberia in October and co-hosted a multi-stakeholder forum on "Sustaining peace through transition in Liberia". The discussion focused on how to ensure that the root causes of the conflict were being addressed during and beyond transition, and what support to sustaining peace in Liberia should look like post-UNMIL. The forum signalled the commitment of Liberia to work towards a successful transition process post-UNMIL and provided an important opportunity to identify longer term peacebuilding priorities in light of the Security Council's upcoming decision on the future presence of the United Nations in the country.

9. In March 2016, the Chair of the Commission's Sierra Leone configuration led the second expert-level peacebuilding assessment mission in Sierra Leone to take stock of progress made on peacebuilding priorities since the last such mission in November 2013. As part of the visit by the Chair of the Commission to West Africa in June 2016 to explore the subregional peacebuilding opportunities and challenges in the region during its recovery from the Ebola outbreak, there was an opportunity to further discuss the future role of the Sierra Leone configuration in the post-Ebola period, especially in light of the request of the Security Council that the Commission review its engagement with a view to scaling down its role in 2013 as the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) was drawing down (see resolution 2097 (2013)). The draft report of the assessment mission was presented to the members of the Commission at a meeting of the Sierra Leone configuration on 7 December 2016 for further consideration. At the same meeting, in light of the request of the Government of Sierra Leone that the Commission remain engaged through the 2018 presidential and parliamentary elections, the Commission was briefed by a range of stakeholders on the status of preparations for the upcoming elections.

B. Towards a more flexible Peacebuilding Commission

Regional issues, including sustained attention on the long-term impacts of the Ebola outbreak

10. Building on its previous experience, the Commission continued to work in a flexible way and to use the platform of its Organizational Committee to convene regional, country-specific and thematic discussions. The Commission was particularly successful in addressing peacebuilding challenges and opportunities in West Africa from three distinct angles. On 18 January 2016, the Commission, with the consent of all the countries concerned, convened a meeting on "Peacebuilding trends and threats in West Africa", which benefited from in-depth briefings by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa. The meeting offered an opportunity to convene regional and subregional discussions of the Commission and to highlight the positive signs emerging from the region in 2015, in particular in terms of democratic developments and electoral processes. The Commission discussed the challenges the region was facing, including violent extremism and cross-border

security, and stressed the need for stronger synergies within the United Nations system and a more prominent role for the Commission in peacebuilding and sustaining peace so that it may be able to adequately assist in addressing these challenges.

11. On 6 April 2016, the Commission convened a meeting on the subregional dimensions of peacebuilding in West Africa, which provided an opportunity for a discussion with senior representatives of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Peacebuilding Support Office on a number of regional challenges to peacebuilding and the role the Commission could play in supporting the efforts of countries, including Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, to achieve sustainable peace, if requested. Representatives at the meeting also welcomed the efforts to enhance coherence within the United Nations system, particularly between the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDP and discussed the important work being undertaken by regional and subregional organizations in West Africa and the need to further strengthen their partnership with the Commission. It was noted that the advisory role of the Commission was of particular importance during the drawdown of peacekeeping operations, and it was also stressed that capacity-building, the extension of State authority and the strengthening of peoples and communities living along borders were prerequisites in taking on cross-border peacebuilding challenges. In this connection, the meeting recognized the important contribution of the Peacebuilding Fund, particularly in its support to cross-border initiatives in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali.

12. From 9 to 18 June 2016, the Chair of the Commission made a visit to West Africa to explore the subregional peacebuilding opportunities and challenges in the region, which was on the road to recovery after the Ebola outbreak. The delegation focused on national and regional recovery efforts, particularly on the political and socioeconomic priorities, and discussed and identified opportunities for constructive engagement of the Commission and the international community with various national stakeholders from the subregion. The Chair made a commitment to remain engaged in national and regional issues concerning Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the subregion of Mano River Basin, and to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to sustaining peace. He also gave reassurances of the Commission's availability to continue serving as a forum for sustaining international attention, including by bringing attention to emerging national and regional needs, opportunities and challenges, as required.

Cross-cutting issues

13. The Commission continued its consideration of the theme "Financing for peacebuilding", initiated in 2015, with discussions on Papua New Guinea and Somalia, in accordance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005). In this regard, on 10 October 2016, the Commission convened a meeting on financing for peacebuilding to discuss the ways in which the United Nations was assisting Kyrgyzstan to address its peacebuilding priorities, including through the support of the Peacebuilding Fund. The meeting marked an important step in the implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, demonstrating the flexibility of the

Commission in considering cross-cutting issues and strengthening its synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund in order to fulfil its mandate. The meeting benefited from briefings by a senior representative of the Government of Kyrgyzstan, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, the Resident Coordinator in Kyrgyzstan and representatives of Kyrgyz civil society organizations. Discussions focused on the progress the country had made on reconciliation and peacebuilding since 2010, with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund. Delegations commended the Fund for its catalytic, timely and critical contribution to peacebuilding and prevention efforts in Kyrgyzstan and stressed the importance of predictable and sustainable financing for the Fund. The meeting also highlighted that a regional approach and collective efforts were important elements in addressing cross-border challenges, including the rise of violent extremism, illegal drug trafficking and migration. Finally, it was noted that the Commission should continue considering the theme "Financing for peacebuilding".

14. Following up on the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security, the Commission reflected on how young people can contribute to peacebuilding, at a number of its meetings in 2016, including during its discussions focused on West Africa, the Commission's annual session in June and in discussions on the Commission's gender strategy. A young representative from civil society addressed the Commission at its annual session and presented the challenges faced by children, adolescents and young people in the context of the peacebuilding process and the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone. The Chair of the Commission and the Chairs of the country configurations systematically engaged in discussions, on the role that youth can play to contribute to peacebuilding, with national counterparts during their field visits. While concerns were expressed about the engagement of some fraction of the youth population in violence, the role that young women and men could, and did, play to contribute to peace and stability was acknowledged in the Commission's discussions in relation to young people.

Gender strategy of the Peacebuilding Commission

15. As a follow-up to the report on its ninth session, on 7 September 2016 the Commission adopted an advisory gender strategy to help guide its work on gender-related aspects of peacebuilding. The strategy was the outcome of a preparatory process that started in 2015 and of a series of consultations with Member States, practitioners, experts and representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system conducted by the Commission during its tenth session, including a special session on the margins of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which brought together civil society organizations from a number of countries on the Commission's agenda. The strategy is a timely effort in integrating a gender dimension of peacebuilding into the work of the Commission, accelerating the momentum created by the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. The strategy, *inter alia*, underscores the importance of women's leadership and participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding and the substantial link between women's meaningful involvement in those efforts, their effectiveness and their long-term sustainability.

16. Following the adoption of its gender strategy on 7 September 2016, the Commission is considering the nomination of a gender focal point from among its membership in order to advance the implementation of the strategy. The

Commission and its Chair have also taken steps to implement the strategy at the country-specific level, including through discussions on women's participation in the elections in Liberia and on the implications of the UNMIL drawdown as well as during the Chair's meeting with the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa in October 2016. In addition, the Commission invited civil society representatives from Sierra Leone to brief the Sierra Leone configuration on the participation of women and civil society in the upcoming elections.

Provisional rules of procedure and working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

17. In implementation of paragraph 5 of the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the Organizational Committee initiated a review of its provisional rules of procedure and working methods in order to make its work more flexible and effective. In this connection, and building on a non-paper prepared by the Permanent Missions of Kenya and Switzerland, the Committee convened several expert-level consultations, which culminated in a report composed of two parts: part A, implementable actions based on good practices; and part B, recommendations, which require further discussion. The Commission informally adopted part A of the report on 18 November 2016 (see annex to the present report) as a living document to guide the work of the Commission. Part A will be periodically reviewed by the Commission in its annual reports. Part B will be further discussed at the beginning of the eleventh session.

The bridging role of the Peacebuilding Commission: the work of the Commission with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council

18. The resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture call on the Commission to serve as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations, given the close interlinkages between development, peace and security and human rights. In this connection, throughout the tenth session, the Commission continued to explore ways to enhance its advisory and bridging role with the General Assembly and the Security Council. The first opportunity was the "high-level thematic debate on the United Nations, peace and security" (10 and 11 May 2016), organized by the President of the General Assembly shortly after the adoption of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. The meeting, which attracted high-level participation from Member States, reaffirmed, *inter alia*, support for peacebuilding and for sustaining peace and confirmed the importance of synergies between the General Assembly and the Commission. In this connection, the President of the General Assembly has initiated preparations for a high-level dialogue, to be held on 24 January 2017, which will bring together the Presidents of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the Chair of the Commission.

19. In relation to the Security Council, the Commission engaged in active consultations through: (a) the fifth informal interactive dialogue co-organized by the President of the Council and the Chair of the Commission; (b) a periodic stocktaking at the expert level, coordinated by Egypt; and (c) formal briefings to the

Council on country-specific and thematic issues. The fifth informal interactive dialogue (22 June 2016) offered an opportunity to discuss practical ways to strengthen coordination, coherence and cooperation between the Security Council and the Commission. The dialogue was held shortly after the adoption of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture and was structured around three main issues: transitions; the links between the work of the Commission in New York and in the field; and the relationship between the Commission and the Security Council. Discussions highlighted how the Commission, through its convening role, could contribute a peacebuilding perspective to inform the Council's decision-making process, as requested, particularly during discussions on the drawdown of peacekeeping operations. It was also noted that, in situations of transition, including from special political missions to United Nations country teams, the Security Council should regularly seek and draw upon the Commission to assist with the longer term perspective required for sustaining peace. By bringing together security and development actors, the Commission was well placed to act as a bridge between the principal organs and relevant entities of the United Nations through the sharing of advice on peacebuilding needs and priorities. The discussions also referred to the importance, for the Commission, of improving its working methods in order to enhance its efficiency and flexibility, including by strengthening its work at the regional level to fulfil its mandate.

20. In February 2016, the Organizational Committee nominated Egypt to succeed Malaysia as coordinator of the periodic stocktaking exercise of the Commission's advisory function with respect to the Security Council. Two informal expert-level meetings were held (13 April and 24 October 2016), focusing on the advisory role of the Commission in connection with country-specific situations and with regard to the intention of the Council to regularly request the advice of the Commission, as noted in paragraph 8 of its resolution 2282 (2016). The discussion highlighted the important role the Commission could play in support of the Council discussions on the UNMIL drawdown. Furthermore, a number of good practices that could strengthen the advisory role of the Commission were discussed, focusing on: its advisory role in connection with the situations in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia; establishing and maintaining strong partnerships with regional organizations; and structuring and planning its work in a way that would enrich its advice to the Council.

21. With regard to thematic briefings to the Security Council, the Commission addressed the Council on a number of occasions. On 23 February 2016, at the Council's open debate on "Post-conflict peacebuilding: review of the peacebuilding architecture", the Chair underscored the importance of sustaining peace and the need for a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and sustainable peace. He stressed that investments in prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict were considerably less expensive and sustainable than reacting to crises, and that, therefore, predictable, sustained and adequate financing to address the root causes of conflict are required. The Chair also stressed that the Commission had an important role to play in ensuring coherence within the United Nations system and in functioning as a bridge between the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

22. On 28 March 2016, the Chair, on behalf of the Commission, briefed the Council at its open debate on "Women, peace and security: the role of women in

conflict prevention and resolution in Africa". In his statement, the Chair reiterated the importance of women's participation in approaches to peacebuilding and conflict prevention and stated that young women and men could play a role in this endeavour. The Chair stressed the significance of a systematic and efficient translation of formal commitments into concrete action on the ground and highlighted the ongoing efforts of the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund in this regard. The Chair also noted that the adoption by the Security Council of its resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security was an important step towards greater inclusivity in peacebuilding, and that, through its adoption, the role young women and men can play in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding was finally getting the recognition it deserved.

23. On 24 May 2016, the Chair, representing the Commission, briefed the Security Council at its open debate on the "Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations: United Nations-African Union Peace and Security Cooperation: Chapter VIII application and the future of the African Peace and Security Architecture". The Chair reiterated the need to focus on conflict prevention and to address the root causes of conflict. He stressed that the peace and security challenges facing the Organization were complex and interlinked and called for a collective action. He recalled that the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture stressed the importance of the partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union and added that, building on that mandate, the Commission intended to use the momentum generated by the new resolutions to further enhance and institutionalize its cooperation with the African Union.

24. On 28 July 2016, Ms. Amina C. Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Kenya, in her capacity as Chair of the Commission, briefed the Security Council at its open debate on "Peacebuilding in Africa". The Chair noted that the Commission continued to engage with the African Union and its various regional entities in order to support peacebuilding in Africa, underscoring that genuine partnerships remained essential to sustaining peace and development in Africa and noting that peace and development could only be achieved by working together with key stakeholders, including the private sector and the civil society, at the local, provincial, national, regional and international level. In connection with the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, Ms. Mohamed reiterated the importance of prevention and of investing in early warning systems.

25. With regard to country-specific advice to the Security Council, the Chairs of the country-specific configurations provided the Council with substantive updates on key peacebuilding priorities defined by the respective countries. In connection with Liberia, the Vice-Chair continued to advocate for the importance of sustaining international attention on Liberia in a collective manner and stressed that a smooth transition period would ensure the country's robust path towards further consolidation of peace. In connection with Guinea-Bissau, the meeting of the Commission in March 2016 was used as an opportunity to prepare an input for the Council's visit to Guinea-Bissau, in line with its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the political crisis.

26. The synergies between the Security Council and the Commission were also discussed at a meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Security Council on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, entitled “Improving cooperation between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Security Council for sustaining peace in Africa”, which took place on 1 November 2016. The meeting recognized that, in view of its nature, the Commission was well placed to provide the Council with a broader perspective on sustaining peace, including when the Council was discussing the situation of countries undergoing transition.

27. In relation to the Economic and Social Council, a joint event with the Commission was organized on 24 June 2016 to discuss the theme “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sustaining peace”. The event, which focused on the nexus between peace and development, highlighted how sustaining peace and strong institutions were critical for achieving all of the Sustainable Development Goals and, in turn, how the entire 2030 Agenda could contribute to sustaining peace — before, during and after conflict. Member States noted that humanitarian intervention, peacebuilding and development had to be implemented in a coherent and coordinated manner, and that achieving the 2030 Agenda and sustaining peace required a more holistic and coherent approach. It was also noted that the ongoing discussions on the long-term positioning of the United Nations development system could provide opportunities to strengthen coherence and remove the competition for resources. Finally, delegations recognized the role of the development system in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and strongly supported regular dialogue between the Economic and Social Council and the Commission to promote coherence and complementarity between the Organization’s peace and security efforts and its development, human rights and humanitarian work.

28. On 26 July 2016, the Chair was invited to brief the Economic and Social Council at its coordination and management meeting. Building on the good practices of the work of the Commission in support of African countries, the Chair underscored the importance of a multidimensional approach that went beyond the military and security responses, and of focusing on addressing the root causes of conflict in affected countries. Building on the discussions of 24 June 2016, the Chair reiterated that the Commission was uniquely placed to assist or address the peace-development-humanitarian nexus, including in relation to the 2030 Agenda, and noted that the Council and the Commission should review good practices in addressing the root causes of conflict and how the United Nations development system has integrated sustaining peace into its planning frameworks and activities.

Partnerships and engagement with other stakeholders

Third annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission (June 2016)

29. Throughout the tenth session, the Commission worked to strengthen partnerships with a number of relevant actors. On 23 June 2016, the Commission convened its third annual session to discuss the topic “Transitions as a challenge to consolidating peace and security: the role of the Commission in diplomacy and political accompaniment”. The meeting, which took place less than two months after the adoption of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, represented a timely opportunity for Member States to discuss how the convening and bridging role of the Commission could support countries in the process of

transition. The discussions benefited from statements made by the Deputy Secretary-General and the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children in Armed Conflict, and by presentations made by senior government representatives, senior officials from the United Nations and the African Union and by civil society organizations.

30. The discussion highlighted key principles to be considered when supporting countries undergoing transition. Delegations placed particular emphasis on the importance of taking into account the specific context of a country in transition and stated that planning and assessments needed to be carried out at an early stage. The meeting recognized national ownership as a priority and noted the importance of inclusivity at all levels of society, including women and youth. Furthermore, participants stressed that addressing the root causes of conflict, strengthening people's access to justice, national reconciliation and decentralization were also some of the measures that needed to be taken in order to address concerns of people during a mission's drawdown. Delegations also underscored the importance of predictable and sustainable financing, as well as the need to strengthen partnerships with regional, subregional and neighbouring countries, as well as civil society organizations.

31. In connection with the role of the Commission, participants underscored that it should advocate for sustained political, technical and financial support to countries undergoing transition. Its unique role in the United Nations system should be used to provide strategic advice to the General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council, as well as to strengthen synergies with regional and subregional actors to promote a coherent and systematic approach to supporting countries undergoing transitions.

32. On 7 September 2016, the Commission continued its consideration of peacebuilding opportunities in countries undergoing transitions at a meeting with the Secretary-General of the Mano River Union. Focusing on the countries of the subregion, the discussion proposed key priority areas, including the need to strengthen capacities at the governmental and non-governmental level, and the importance of ensuring a coherent approach of the United Nations system. In view of the ongoing transitions in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, the Commission recognized the important contribution of the Peacebuilding Fund, in partnership with the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), UNMIL and the United Nations country teams in both countries, in developing cross-border projects and supporting both countries to strengthen their capacities at this crucial time.

33. On 7 October 2016, the Commission convened an expert-level meeting on good practices in peacebuilding, which built on the work done by the Working Group on Lessons Learned. Based on the outcome of the annual session, and in order to further explore ways in which the convening role of the Commission could support countries undergoing transitions, the meeting was held on the topic, "The challenge of sustaining peace: lessons from previous transitions". The meeting, which benefited from presentations by the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNDP and the civil society organization, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone, focused on the situations in Burundi, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste and identified a number of good practices that could be replicated in order to ensure smooth transition

processes. A second expert-level meeting on good practices in peacebuilding took place on 21 November 2016 on the topic "The challenge of sustaining peace: role of the Peacebuilding Commission in mission drawdown". The second meeting focused on the ongoing transitions in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia. Building on the outcome of the first meeting, the second addressed the need for early and long-term planning, which needed a system-wide approach in order to ensure that transitions did not lead to a relapse into conflict. Delegations underscored the critical role of the Commission and the Fund, in particular when working in synergy, to maintain the attention of the international community in the aftermath of transitions and to provide the support required by countries to strengthen local institutions. In connection with the advisory role of the Commission, it was reiterated that, in view of its inclusive composition and the mandate to convene a wide range of relevant stakeholders, it should engage with national Governments and authorities, civil society organizations, international financial institutions and development actors in order to provide comprehensive advice to the Security Council and improve coordination in transition settings.

Integrate the perspectives of regional actors/partnership with regional organizations

34. In response to the call of the General Assembly and the Security Council in their resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, the Commission worked to strengthen its partnership with regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union. From 17 to 19 October 2016, the Commission Chairs visited the Headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa to explore ways to further enhance the Commission's cooperation with the African Union Peace and Security Council in the areas of conflict prevention and sustaining peace across Africa. The delegation was led by the Chair of the Commission and included the Vice-Chairs and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. The delegation held a meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council, which was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the African Union and attended by the 15 members of the Council: Algeria, Botswana, Burundi, Chad, the Congo, Egypt, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. The permanent members of the Security Council, Angola and Senegal, were also invited to attend. On 19 October 2016, the delegation also attended the workshop on the 10 years of the African Union policy on post-conflict reconstruction and development, organized by the African Union Commission.

35. Meetings and consultations with the African Union highlighted the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the areas of peace and security, in line with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Specifically, members of the African Union Peace and Security Council highlighted the Union's effort on peacebuilding in line with the development and implementation of the post-conflict reconstruction and development policy framework, adopted by the African Union in 2006, as well as the African Solidarity Initiative. It was suggested that the Commission and the Peace and Security Council hold regular consultations, including a formal annual meeting. Following the visit of the Chair of the Commission, the Peace and Security Council issued a communiqué on the possibility of carrying out joint visits to conflict-affected areas in Africa and

of the sharing of good practices in addressing conflict prevention and sustaining peace challenges. On 17 November 2016, the Chair reported to the Commission on the main findings of his visit to the African Union. The meeting, which also benefited from a briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union, was an opportunity to express the appreciation of the Chair and the Commission for the visit to Addis Ababa and to highlight the importance of strengthening synergies between the Commission and the African Union in the areas of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, underlining that both institutions should work to better address the root causes of conflict and support institution-building.

36. Building on the visits of the Commission's Chairs and the discussions on the regional, cross-border and transnational peacebuilding challenges in West Africa, the Commission also continued to enhance its partnership with the subregional organizations on efforts towards sustaining peace in Africa, in particular with ECOWAS and the Mano River Union. The Commission also worked to strengthen its partnership with the East African Community, in support of the national and regional mediation efforts in Burundi. In Guinea-Bissau, the Commission continued to provide a useful platform for engagement of countries from the region, including Portuguese-speaking countries, particularly in assisting to prevent further escalation of the political crisis of 2015.

37. On 23 September 2016, Ms. Amina C. Mohamed, in her capacity as Chair of the Commission, and Mr. Samura Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sierra Leone and Chair of the Group of Seven Plus (g7+), co-chaired a meeting with members of the Commission and of the Group on the theme: "Peer-learning among fragile and conflict-affected countries on sustaining peace and sustainable development". During the event, the special envoy of the Group launched the "g7+ Foundation", which will document some of the unique experiences of the Group for the benefit of other countries in pursuit of peace and resilience.

Partnership with the World Bank and other international financial institutions

38. The Commission worked in close partnership with international financial institutions throughout the period of its tenth session. The Vice-Chair attended a meeting of the World Bank, held in Washington, D.C. on 1 to 3 March 2016, on the Banks' "Fragility and conflict forum", which presented an opportunity to discuss how the Commission and the Bank could enhance their collaboration in support of conflict-affected countries.

39. At a meeting of the Commission on 7 September 2016, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support reported on the decision of the United Nations and the World Bank to work on a joint policy study on the role of development in efforts to assist Member States to prevent violent conflict. He noted that the study, conducted by a joint United Nations-World Bank core team (including the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Department for Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and UNDP on the United Nations side), intended to improve the understanding of the potential role of development policies and programmes in conflict prevention, and to provide recommendations on how development actors could strengthen conflict prevention efforts. The Commission was encouraged to provide an important platform to advance the

discussion as the study could provide an opportunity for further consultations between the Commission and the Executive Directors of the World Bank.

40. At the country-specific level, the World Bank, IMF, the African Development Bank and the European Union actively engaged on policy discussions on Burundi, the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau. In Liberia, the revised statement of mutual commitments of 2016 proved to be useful framework to initiate a joint World Bank and UNMIL financial review, building on the public expenditure review issued in January 2013. The review will inform the Government of the different options for affordable security service packages over the next five years, as well as the level and potential sources of financing. It will also enable Liberia to consider better ways of allocating resources to peacebuilding priorities, including a consideration of their affordability, in order to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources.

41. To ensure that the fragile and hard-won stability in the Central African Republic will be sustainable, the United Nations worked with the World Bank and the European Union to support the Government in undertaking a recovery and peacebuilding assessment, which helped in the development of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, 2017-2021 and with the preparations of the international donors conference for the Central African Republic held in Brussels on 17 November 2016. The assessment identified urgent needs at \$120 per capita, more than twice the actual aid provided in 2012, and included measures aimed at strengthening security, supporting political reconciliation and inclusion and boosting economic recovery. Based on this assessment, donors have pledged 2.06 billion euros (\$2.2 billion) to help rebuild the war-torn country, including \$500 million over the next three years from the World Bank.

42. In regard to Burundi, the Chair of the Burundi configuration, in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator, organized socioeconomic consultations in Geneva, on 7 and 8 November 2016, with representatives of the World Bank, IMF, the African Development Bank, the European Union and the relevant entities of the United Nations system. During the consultations, the representatives were able to: (a) compare their assessments of the macroeconomic and socioeconomic situation, including the impact of the political crisis on the economy; (b) examine current responses to the socioeconomic challenges; and (c) discuss opportunities to assist Burundi in responding to the socioeconomic challenges with greater policy coherence among partners and with a peacebuilding approach. The outcome of the consultations was shared with the Government and the Commission for consideration.

Financing for peacebuilding: strengthening the synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

43. In implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, and building on its previous work, the Commission continued to strengthen synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund by ensuring a better flow of information from the Fund to the Commission in two ways: (a) inviting the Peacebuilding Support Office to provide updates on the work of the Fund at regional or country-specific meetings of the Commission; and (b) inviting the Chair and members of the Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund to brief the

Commission on the findings emerging from the regular meetings of the Advisory Group, such as on the occasion of the meeting of the Commission of 14 December. More coherence between the Commission and the Fund was also sought through briefings to the Commission by countries receiving financing from the Fund, including at the meeting on Kyrgyzstan held on 10 October 2016.

44. The need to strengthen the synergies between the Commission and the Fund was also addressed during the Commission's discussion of its provisional rules of procedure and working methods. It was noted that, while recognizing the need to preserve the independence of the Fund, more regular briefings on the ongoing projects of the Fund from Peacebuilding Support Office and the Advisory Group of the Fund are required.

III. Conclusions and agenda going forward

45. The upcoming reporting period will present an important opportunity for the Commission to demonstrate successful implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture. In that regard, the Commission will continue to pursue several important work streams that could further strengthen its country-specific and policy-related engagements.

A. Implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture

46. The Peacebuilding Commission, together with the Peacebuilding Support Office, will actively ensure the implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture, in addition to the actions identified under each of the strategic priorities identified below.

Action:

(a) The Organizational Committee will convene periodic discussions to ensure the implementation of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture;

(b) The country configurations will implement the relevant recommendations of the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture.

B. The bridging role of the Peacebuilding Commission: the work of the Commission with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council

47. The Commission will explore concrete ways to further strengthen its role as a bridge among the principal organs and relevant United Nations entities.

Action:

(a) The Chair will coordinate with the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the President of the Economic and Social Council in preparation for the High-level Dialogue to be held on 24 January 2017;

(b) The Chair will coordinate with the President of the General Assembly in preparation for activities that can feed into the General Assembly high-level meeting on "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace", to be convened in accordance with the resolutions on the review of the peacebuilding architecture adopted during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly;

(c) The Organizational Committee will draw upon the main findings of the stocktaking exercise, undertaken in 2016, of its advisory function with regard to the Security Council and consider practical ways in which to implement them; to that end, the Committee will nominate one of the members of the Commission to coordinate the periodic stocktaking exercise in an inclusive manner;

(d) The Chair will coordinate with the presidency of the Security Council in preparation for the convening of the sixth informal interactive dialogue, which may be held in conjunction with the upcoming annual briefing to the Council on the present report;

(e) The Chair will consult with the Security Council's Ad hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa to explore ways to enhance an informal exchange of views on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, with a focus on Africa;

(f) The Chair will coordinate with the presidency of the Economic and Social Council in preparation for the convening of a joint event, which may be held in conjunction with the upcoming annual session of the Commission;

(g) The Chairs of relevant country configurations will continue to ensure that, at the request of the Security Council, their periodic formal briefings to the Council on the countries concerned will be synchronized with the timing of their field visits and will be focused on specific areas to which the Council's attention has been drawn.

C. Partnerships and engagement with other stakeholders

48. The follow-up to the third annual session of the Commission will be carried forward in 2017. The follow-up exercise will provide guidance for the Commission's preparation for the fourth annual session, including on the selection of a theme that would help further elaborate on the identified policy areas requiring further development. The Commission will also strengthen its collaboration with international financial institutions and with regional organizations.

Action:

(a) The Organizational Committee will convene informal discussions with the participation of relevant United Nations entities, international financial institutions, regional organizations and development banks, with the aim of exploring those specific policy areas requiring further elaboration during the fourth annual session. Interested States Members of the United Nations that are not members of the Peacebuilding Commission will also be invited;

(b) The Organizational Committee will coordinate with the World Bank on ways to strengthen collaboration between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Bank. The Committee will also consider opportunities to discuss the United

Nations-World Bank joint policy study on "Sustaining peace: the role of development in the prevention of violent conflict";

(c) The Organizational Committee will consider the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 18 November 2016, including proposals on how to enhance the partnership between the Commission and the Peace and Security Council.

D. Towards a more flexible Peacebuilding Commission

49. The Commission will continue to consider diversifying its working methods to enhance its efficiency and flexibility in support of sustaining peace.

Action:

(a) The Organizational Committee will continue its consideration of the theme "Financing for peacebuilding" and will hear presentations by countries receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund;

(b) The Organizational Committee will continue its consideration of regional and subregional dimensions of peacebuilding, with the consent of all countries concerned and guaranteeing that when convening regional discussions, references to country-specific situations will be made with the consent of those countries;

(c) The Organizational Committee will implement its gender strategy, where relevant, including by nominating a focal point, as per the modalities indicated in the strategy;

(d) The Organizational Committee will hold a thematic meeting on youth, peace and security to discuss preliminary findings and recommendations emanating from the progress study on youth, peace and security mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 2250 (2015) which will be presented to the Council in December 2017;

(e) The Organizational Committee will continue its consideration of the provisional rules of procedure and working methods of Commission. The Committee will report on progress made in the improvement of the Commission's working methods in its next annual report.

E. Financing for peacebuilding: strengthening the synergies between the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund

50. The Commission will continue to discuss ways to ensure stronger synergies between Commission and the Fund, including by keeping itself better informed on the activities of the Fund.

Action:

The Organizational Committee, with a view to ensuring that it is constantly informed of the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund, will convene periodic meetings with Peacebuilding Support Office or with members of the Advisory Group of the Fund.

Annex

Working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission

Part A: implementable actions based on good practices

(informally adopted by the Commission on 18 November 2016)

The present document contains recommendations whose objectives and outcomes have been established as good practices, and that can be addressed through an informal process. These recommendations are accompanied by relevant examples. It also includes additional action areas whose implementation can contribute to the efficiency and flexibility of the Commission. The Commission can implement all of these actions without the need to amend its provisional rules of procedure. The recommendations are all within the mandate of the founding resolutions of the Commission, General Assembly resolution 60/180 and Security Council resolution 1645 (2005), as well as Assembly resolution 70/262 and Council resolution 2282 (2016). The review of the Commission's working methods is an ongoing process and this informal document will be reviewed periodically, through the Commission's annual reports, in order to assess the added value of the recommendations to the work of the Commission.

Recommendations

1. **Leadership:** The Commission should improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

Action:

- I. As mandated by paragraph 5 of both General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), which encourage the Commission to improve the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and building upon the established practice of having the outgoing Chair serve as Vice-Chair, thus ensuring continuity and support to its leadership, the Commission will continue to explore ways to further strengthen the continuity of its Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Any informal arrangement will not prejudice the change in the membership of the Commission, which takes place every two years and will operate within regional rotation of Chairs, as spelled out in annex I of the Commission's provisional rules of procedure. The decision to endorse a candidate for each post remains a prerogative of the respective regional groups, for action by the Organizational Committee.

Good practices: over the past few sessions, the outgoing Chair served as Vice-Chair, thus ensuring continuity and support to the incoming Chair.

2. **Forms of engagement of the Commission:** While recognizing the value of the work done by the Commission, including through country-specific configurations, the Commission should consider flexible options for other forms of engagement, including a more engaged role of the Organizational Committee.

Actions:

- I. Make greater use of the Organizational Committee as a platform to convene country-specific, regional and thematic discussions, with the consent of all countries concerned, in accordance with its founding resolutions. When convening regional discussions, references to country-specific situations will be made with the consent of those countries.
- II. Promote a Commission that can work in a form of "variable geometry", where the character, focus, and duration of its engagement are decided on an ad hoc basis in order to strengthen its efficiency and flexibility.

Good practices: the meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission on Burkina Faso, the Commission's continuing regional/subregional approach and the thematic discussions on financing for peacebuilding, which included Papua New Guinea, Somalia and Kyrgyzstan.

3. **Role of the membership:** the Commission has a very diverse membership, bringing together seven members from the General Assembly, seven members from the Security Council, seven members from the Economic and Social Council, five members from the top troop-contributing countries and five members from the top financial contributors. Therefore, a stronger engagement of all members of the Commission will further enhance its efficiency.

Actions:

- I. Make a greater use of the perspectives of the organs that elect or designate the members of the Commission: in addition to country-specific interests, Member States elected by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council are encouraged to bring perspectives of those bodies into the deliberations of the Commission. For example, members can offer advice on the working methods of their constituencies and can highlight relevant ongoing thematic issues in their respective organs that will add value to the work of the Commission and reinforce synergies between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant subsidiary bodies, while respecting the mandate of each body.
- II. Members are encouraged to report back to their constituencies on the work done by the Peacebuilding Commission on priority areas that are relevant for the work of their respective organs or groups, and to be champions of sustaining peace. This will add to the visibility of the Commission and enhance clarity on the work of the Commission. Similarly, establishing a predictable workplan (see action 3 below) and summarizing results on a regular basis can lead to a more regular flow of information between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.
- III. Peacebuilding Commission to nominate Member States which express interest in being focal points, championing thematic issues and initiatives, such as the implementation of the Commission's gender strategy, the discussions on good practices in peacebuilding, including

the link between sustainable development and peacebuilding, the role of youth in peacebuilding, or to engage civil society organizations. The focal points will be nominated for a period of one year. In case more than one Member State expresses interest in being appointed as a focal point for the same issue or initiative, the Chair will facilitate discussions with the candidates and will bring the matter to the attention of the Organizational Committee for further action. Meetings pertaining to the various focal points should be conducted within the framework of the Organizational Committee so as to avoid duplication of work, and in order to enhance the idea of one Peacebuilding Commission.

- IV. The Chair, with the consent of Member States, should enhance the convening platform of the Commission by inviting additional partners to participate in meetings of the Commission, when relevant. Such partners may include Member States who are not members of the Organizational Committee, representatives of relevant entities of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society organizations, including youth and women organizations.

Good practices: the annual session of the Peacebuilding Commission is a good example of how the Commission has brought together various partners from the United Nations system and beyond, including representatives of civil society. In discussions pertaining to the regional dimensions of peacebuilding, the Commission also invited relevant partners on an ad hoc basis. For example, the informal meeting on good practices in transition with Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone included representatives from the Department of Political Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme and civil society organizations in Sierra Leone (using video-teleconferencing).

4. **Workplan:** a more predictable and longer-term workplan that would allow broader participation of Member States at the meetings of the Commission.

Actions:

- I. Commission to adopt an annual workplan based on the forward agenda contained in the Commission's annual report. The workplan is to be further developed and circulated to Member States on a quarterly basis and, on a monthly basis, listing the dates of meetings, activities and visits of the Commission in all its configurations. Additional previously unscheduled meetings to be added, if required.
- II. Workplan to take into account and reflect the relevant calendar of work of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, particularly when it comes to activities where the advisory role of the Commission may be sought. In such cases, the Commission should organize its workplan in a way that strengthens its advisory role.
- III. Chairs of country configurations to present their calendar of work earlier in the beginning of each quarter.

- IV. Workplan to include a more regularized engagement of the Commission with regional and subregional organizations.

Good practices: the forward agenda of the annual reports of the Commission has been useful in guiding the work of the Commission. The recent visit of the Commission to the African Union (Addis Ababa, 17 to 19 October 2016), which resulted in the African Union making recommendations that the African Union and the Commission hold annual meetings and organize joint field visits. These recommendations were brought to the attention of the Commission for further consideration and action.

5. **Bridging role:** the resolutions on sustaining peace stress the importance of the Commission in promoting an integrated, strategic and coherent approach to sustaining peace, and, inter alia, in serving a bridging role among the principal organs and relevant entities, including financial institutions. Recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, stronger synergies between the Commission and the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council will ensure more coherence within the United Nations and a prominent role for peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Organization.

Actions:

- I. The Commission to better utilize its membership to strengthen its links with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (see also actions 2.I and 2.II) and to be a champion of sustaining peace.
- II. In connection to the Commission's advisory role to the Security Council, in addition to its engagement so far, when invited to brief the Council it should prepare its briefings by aligning its workplan to relevant Security Council meetings (see action 3.II). The activities of the Commission in preparation for these briefings may include internal thematic discussions in anticipation of issues to be discussed in the Security Council, visits to the field, including, when invited by the Council, joint visits with the Council to advance peacebuilding perspectives and the organization of meetings to engage with relevant stakeholders, including international financial institutions, United Nations entities and civil society organizations.

Through this advanced preparation, and the uniqueness of the Commission's convening power, it can have sustained interactions and enhance its efforts to provide the Security Council with substantive advice, for example in matters relating to the synergies between security and development. Similarly, regular exchanges between the Commission and other subsidiary organs of the Council should be further enhanced.

Good practices: the meetings of the Commission with the Security Council's Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa represented good opportunities to exchange views on issues pertaining to peacebuilding in Africa.

- III. The Commission to advocate for a coherent and predictable use of resources for peacebuilding activities, including with international financial institutions, and for innovative financial instruments.

Good practices: the five annual informal interactive dialogues between the Commission and the Security Council, together with the stock-taking exercise on the advisory function of the Commission to the Security Council, represent useful forums to ensure that the members of both the Council and the Commission can strengthen relations between the two bodies. Strengthen the informal interactions between Members of the Council and of the Commission at all levels.

6. **Synergies between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund:** while preserving the independence of the Fund, look at ways to strengthen the synergies between the Commission and the Fund, and to ensure that Member States remain informed on the ongoing projects of the Fund.

Actions:

- I. The Peacebuilding Commission is to hear presentations by countries receiving funds from the Peacebuilding Fund, in particular when peacebuilding priority plans are discussed.
- II. The Commission to invite the Chair and the members of the Advisory Group of the Peacebuilding Fund to meetings of the Commission, when relevant.
- III. Regular briefings by the Peacebuilding Support Office on the activities of the Fund at the meetings of the Commission would be useful.

Good practices: working relationship between the Commission and the Fund during the Ebola crisis; the meetings on financing for peacebuilding (Papua New Guinea and Somalia, in 2015; Kyrgyzstan, in 2016, which also included a representative from the Fund's Advisory Group) represent innovative ways to keep the Commission informed of progress countries make with support from the Fund.

7. **Format of Commission meetings (open or closed):** ensure that there is a balance between transparency/outreach and confidentiality of the Commission's deliberations. The Commission, in all its meetings and formats, should enhance inclusivity and ensure that participation reinforces an integrated Organizational Committee and the concept of a unified Peacebuilding Commission. Peacebuilding Support Office to continue ensuring that mechanisms of reporting back to the Organizational Committee on all Commission activities are in place.

Actions:

- I. In preparation for the meetings of the Commission, the Chair, upon consultation with countries concerned, should announce whether the meetings are to be open or closed.
8. **Visibility and communication:** there is a need to address the lack of awareness, both in and outside the United Nations, about the work of the Commission and on sustaining peace.

Actions:

- I. The Commission to explore ways to increase the visibility of its open meetings, in particular high-level events such as the annual session, to attract more attention from the media.
- II. The Commission to explore ways to increase ongoing activity on the web and on social media with regard to all of its meetings and country visits.

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
27 January 2017

Original: English

France: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions and statements on the Central African Republic (CAR), in particular resolutions 2121 (2013), 2127 (2013), 2134 (2014), 2149 (2014), 2181 (2014), 2196 (2015), 2212 (2015), 2217 (2015), 2262 (2016), 2264 (2016), 2281 (2016), 2301 (2016) as well as resolution 2272 (2016), and the Statements of its President of 18 December 2014 (S/PRST/2014/28), 20 October 2015 (S/PRST/2015/17), and 16 November 2016 (S/PRST/2016/17),

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the CAR, and recalling the importance of the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness and regional cooperation,

Recalling that the CAR bears the primary responsibility to protect all populations within its territory from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Noting with concern that while improving, the security situation in the CAR remains fragile, due to the continued presence of armed groups and other armed spoilers, as well as the ongoing violence, the lack of capacity of the national security forces, the limited authority of the State over all of the CAR territory, and the persistence of the root causes of the conflict,

Emphasizing that any sustainable solution to the crisis in the CAR should be CAR-owned, including the political process, and should prioritize reconciliation of the Central African people, through an inclusive process that involves men and women of all social, economic, political, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including, those displaced by the crisis,

Calling upon the CAR authorities to urgently implement transparent and inclusive measures that allow for stabilization and reconciliation in the CAR, including to take concrete steps to restore the effective authority of the State over all of the territory of the CAR; to fight impunity by restoring administration of the judiciary and the criminal justice system, including the penitentiary system, throughout the country; to speed up the reform of the CAR Armed Forces (FACA) and internal security forces in order to put in place multi-ethnic, professional, and republican security services through appropriate security sector reform processes; to carry out the inclusive and effective disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation (DDRR) of armed groups, including children formerly associated with



them; and to establish a functioning public financial management in order to meet the expenses related to the functioning of the State, implement early recovery plans, and revitalize the economy,

Encouraging the CAR authorities, in collaboration with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) and the European Union Training Mission in the CAR (EUTM-RCA), to provide equal opportunities for members of armed groups, whether anti-Balaka or ex-Séléka, in the process of selecting eligible demobilized members to integrate into the national security and defence forces, and to ensure that FACA soldiers of all prefectures enjoy equal access to the registration and simplified verification process,

Underlining the importance of rebuilding a multi-ethnic, republican and professional national army in the CAR, recognizing in this regard the work carried out by the EUTM-RCA and welcoming the intention of Member States of the Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) to contribute to the training of the national security and defence forces in support of the CAR authorities and in coordination with EUTM,

Calling upon the CAR authorities to ensure that perpetrators of violations of applicable international law, including those committed against children and women, are excluded from the CAR security and armed forces,

Welcoming the commitment of the Secretary-General to enforce strictly his zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, expressing grave concern over numerous allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse reportedly committed by peacekeepers in the CAR, stressing the urgent need for troop- and police-contributing countries and MINUSCA to promptly investigate those cases in a credible and transparent manner and to hold accountable those responsible for such criminal offenses or misconduct, and further stressing the need to prevent such exploitation and abuse and to improve how these allegations are addressed,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's Report of 29 September 2016 (S/2016/824) submitted pursuant to resolution 2301 (2016),

Further welcoming also the midterm update and the final report (S/2016/1032) of the Panel of Experts on the CAR established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013), expanded by resolution 2134 (2014) and extended pursuant to resolution 2262 (2016), and taking note of the Panel of Experts' recommendations,

Strongly condemning the ongoing violence and instability in the CAR, and the threats of violence, human rights violations and abuses and international humanitarian law violations, including against women and children; the attacks against United Nations peacekeepers, international forces and humanitarian personnel; the continuous cycle of provocations and reprisals by armed groups, both inside and outside Bangui and denial of humanitarian access, committed by armed elements, which continue to adversely affect the dire humanitarian situation faced by the civilian population and to impede humanitarian access to vulnerable populations,

Stressing the urgent and imperative need to end impunity in the CAR and to bring to justice perpetrators of these acts, some of which may amount to crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), to which the

CAR is a State party, noting in this regard the opening by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on 24 September 2014 of an investigation following the request of the national authorities on alleged crimes committed since 2012 and welcoming the ongoing cooperation by the CAR authorities in this regard,

Stressing the importance of putting in place an effective national judicial system, underlining the need to bolster national accountability mechanisms, including through further implementation of the 7 August 2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Urgent Temporary Measures, and the law promulgated in June 2015 to establish a national Special Criminal Court to investigate and prosecute serious crimes committed in the CAR, and recalling the importance of continuous support of the international community to this process pursued by the CAR authorities,

Emphasizing that those engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR, threaten or impede the political stabilization and reconciliation process, target civilians and attack peacekeepers may meet criteria for designation under sanctions as stated in this resolution,

Expressing concern that illicit trafficking, trade, exploitation and smuggling of natural resources including gold, diamonds and wildlife has a negative impact in the economy and the development of the country, and that it continues to threaten the peace and stability of the CAR,

Taking note of the Kimberley Process (KP) Administrative Decision on Resumption of Exports of Rough Diamonds from the CAR, its annexed Operational Framework, and the work of the KP Monitoring Team for CAR and recognizing the extraordinary efforts of the CAR Authorities and the KP, to responsibly and progressively, through pre-established "compliant zones", reintegrate the CAR into the global diamond trade,

Noting with concern the findings of the Panel of Experts' final report that the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remains active in the CAR, has established links to other armed groups and is generating revenues from the exploitation and trade of natural resources, including gold, diamonds and wildlife poaching,

Further noting with concern the ongoing transnational criminal activity in the region, emphasizing the risk of the situation in the CAR providing a conducive environment for further transnational criminal activities, such as those involving arms trafficking and the use of mercenaries as well as a potential breeding ground for radical networks,

Acknowledging in this respect the important contribution the Council-mandated arms embargo can make to countering the illicit transfer of arms and related materiel in the CAR and its region, and in supporting post-conflict peacebuilding, DDRR and SSR processes, recalling its resolutions 2117 (2013), 2127 (2013), 2220 (2015) and 2262 (2016) and expressing grave concern at the threat to peace and security in the CAR arising from the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, and the use of such weapons against civilians affected by armed conflict,

Reiterating the importance of all Member States' full implementation of the measures set out in resolutions 2127 (2013), 2134 (2014), 2196 (2015), 2262 (2016) and this resolution, including the obligation to implement targeted sanctions against individuals and entities designated by the Sanctions Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) (the Committee),

Noting the critical importance of effective implementation of the sanctions regime, including the key role that neighbouring States, as well as regional and subregional organizations, can play in this regard and encouraging efforts to further enhance cooperation and implementation of the sanctions regime in all its aspects,

Noting with concern the reports that sanctioned individuals are travelling in the region in violation of the travel ban, and underlining that individuals or entities who knowingly facilitate the travel of a sanctioned individual in violation of the travel ban may be determined by the Committee to have met the designation criteria for sanctions,

Welcoming efforts by the Chair of the Committee and the President of the Security Council to support and strengthen the implementation of the measures imposed pursuant to resolution 2262 (2016) through engagement with Member States, especially regional States, and welcoming in this regard the travel by the Chair and Committee members to the CAR in May 2016,

Welcoming the outcome of the international support conference held in Brussels in November 2016 and the pledges announced during this conference, encouraging Member States to swiftly disburse these pledges, and encourages further mobilization at the African Union Solidarity Conference for the CAR to be held in Addis Ababa in February 2017,

Determining that the situation in the CAR continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Arms embargo

1. *Decides* that, until 31 January 2018, all Member States shall continue to take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the CAR, from or through their territories or by their nationals, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical assistance, training, financial or other assistance, related to military activities or the provision, maintenance or use of any arms and related materiel, including the provision of armed mercenary personnel whether or not originating in their territories, and decides further that this measure shall not apply to:

(a) Supplies intended solely for the support of or use by MINUSCA, the African Union-Regional Task Force (AU-RTF), and the European Union Missions and French Forces deployed in the CAR;

(b) Supplies of non-lethal equipment and provision of assistance, including operational and non-operational training to the CAR security forces, including State civilian law enforcement institutions, intended solely for support of or use in the

CAR process of Security Sector Reform (SSR), in coordination with MINUSCA, and as notified in advance to the Committee, and requests MINUSCA to report on the contribution to SSR of this exemption, as part of its regular reports to the Council;

(c) Supplies brought into the CAR by Chadian or Sudanese forces solely for their use in international patrols of the tripartite force established on 23 May 2011 in Khartoum by the CAR, Chad and Sudan, to enhance security in the common border areas, in cooperation with MINUSCA, as approved in advance by the Committee;

(d) Supplies of non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, and related technical assistance or training, as approved in advance by the Committee;

(e) Protective clothing, including flak jackets and military helmets, temporarily exported to the CAR by United Nations personnel, representatives of the media and humanitarian and development workers and associated personnel, for their personal use only;

(f) Supplies of small arms and other related equipment intended solely for use in international patrols providing security in the Sangha River Tri-national Protected Area to defend against poaching, smuggling of ivory and arms, and other activities contrary to the national laws of the CAR or the CAR's international legal obligations, as notified in advance to the Committee;

(g) Supplies of arms and other related lethal equipment to the CAR security forces, including State civilian law enforcement institutions, intended solely for support of or use in the CAR process of SSR, as approved in advance by the Committee; or

(h) Other sales or supply of arms and related materiel, or provision of assistance or personnel, as approved in advance by the Committee;

2. *Decides* to authorize all Member States to, and that all Member States shall, upon discovery of items prohibited by paragraph 1 of this resolution, seize, register and dispose (such as through destruction, rendering inoperable, storage or transferring to a State other than the originating or destination States for disposal) items the supply, sale, transfer or export of which is prohibited by paragraph 1 of this resolution and decides further that all Member States shall cooperate in such efforts;

3. *Reiterates* its call upon the CAR authorities, with the assistance of MINUSCA and international partners, to address the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in the CAR, and to ensure the collection and/or destruction of surplus, seized, unmarked, or illicitly held weapons and ammunition and further stresses the importance of incorporating such elements into SSR and DDRR programmes;

4. *Strongly encourages* the CAR authorities to increase their capacity, with the support of MINUSCA, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and other international partners, to store and manage weapons and ammunition in their possession, including those transferred from MINUSCA stocks, according to

international best practices and norms, while ensuring that the FACA and interior forces units receiving such weapons and ammunition are fully trained and vetted;

Travel ban

5. *Decides* that, until 31 January 2018, all Member States shall continue to take the necessary measures to prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of individuals designated by the Committee, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall oblige a State to refuse its own nationals entry into its territory, and calls upon the CAR Government to enhance cooperation and information sharing with other States in this regard;

6. *Encourages* Member States, as appropriate and in accordance with their domestic law and applicable international legal instruments and framework documents, to require that airlines operating in their territories provide advance passenger information to the appropriate national authorities in order to detect the departure from their territories, or attempted entry into or transit through their territories, by means of civil aircraft, of individuals designated by the Committee;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to report any such departures from their territories, or such attempted entry into or transit through their territories, of such individuals to the Committee, as well as sharing this information with the State of residence or nationality, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic law and international obligations;

8. *Urges* the CAR authorities, in their implementation of the measures set out in paragraph 5 above, to ensure that fraudulent, counterfeit, stolen, and lost passports and other travel documents, as well as invalidated diplomatic passports are removed from circulation, in accordance with domestic laws and practices, as soon as possible, and to share information on those documents with other Member States through the INTERPOL database;

9. *Encourages* Member States to submit, where available and in accordance with their national legislation, photographs and other biometric data of individuals designated by the Committee for inclusion in INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices;

10. *Decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 5 above shall not apply:

(a) Where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that such travel is justified on the grounds of humanitarian need, including religious obligation;

(b) Where entry or transit is necessary for the fulfilment of a judicial process;

(c) Where the Committee determines on a case-by-case basis that an exemption would further the objectives of peace and national reconciliation in the CAR and stability in the region;

11. *Emphasizes* that violations of the travel ban can undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR, observes that individuals or entities who knowingly facilitate the travel of a listed individual in violation of the travel ban may be determined by the Committee to have met the designation criteria provided for in

this resolution and calls upon all parties and all Member States to cooperate with the Committee as well as the Panel of Experts on the implementation of the travel ban;

Asset freeze

12. *Decides* that all Member States shall, until 31 January 2018, continue to freeze without delay all funds, other financial assets and economic resources within their territories, which are owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the individuals or entities designated by the Committee, or by individuals or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction, or by entities owned or controlled by them, and decides further that all Member States shall continue to ensure that any funds, financial assets or economic resources are prevented from being made available by their nationals or by any individuals or entities within their territories, to or for the benefit of the individuals or entities designated by the Committee;

13. *Decides* that the measures imposed by paragraph 12 above do not apply to funds, other financial assets or economic resources that have been determined by relevant Member States:

(a) To be necessary for basic expenses, including payment for foodstuffs, rent or mortgage, medicines and medical treatment, taxes, insurance premiums, and public utility charges or exclusively for payment of reasonable professional fees and reimbursement of incurred expenses associated with the provision of legal services in accordance with national laws, or fees or service charges, in accordance with national laws, for routine holding or maintenance of frozen funds, other financial assets and economic resources, after notification by the relevant State to the Committee of the intention to authorize, where appropriate, access to such funds, other financial assets or economic resources and in the absence of a negative decision by the Committee within five working days of such notification;

(b) To be necessary for extraordinary expenses, provided that such determination has been notified by the relevant State or Member States to the Committee and has been approved by the Committee; or

(c) To be the subject of a judicial, administrative or arbitral lien or judgment, in which case the funds, other financial assets and economic resources may be used to satisfy that lien or judgment provided that the lien or judgment was entered into prior to the date of the present resolution, is not for the benefit of a person or entity designated by the Committee, and has been notified by the relevant State or Member States to the Committee;

14. *Decides* that Member States may permit the addition to the accounts frozen pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 12 above of interest or other earnings due on those accounts or payments due under contracts, agreements or obligations that arose prior to the date on which those accounts became subject to the provisions of this resolution, provided that any such interest, other earnings and payments continue to be subject to these provisions and are frozen;

15. *Decides* that the measures in paragraph 12 above shall not prevent a designated person or entity from making payment due under a contract entered into prior to the listing of such a person or entity, provided that the relevant States have determined that the payment is not directly or indirectly received by a person or entity designated pursuant to paragraph 12 above, and after notification by the

relevant States to the Committee of the intention to make or receive such payments or to authorize, where appropriate, the unfreezing of funds, other financial assets or economic resources for this purpose, 10 working days prior to such authorization;

Designation criteria

16. *Decides* that the measures contained in paragraphs 5 and 12 shall apply to the individuals and entities designated by the Committee as engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability or security of the CAR, including acts that threaten or impede the stabilization and reconciliation process or that fuel violence;

17. *Further decides* in this regard that the measures contained in paragraphs 5 and 12 shall also apply to the individuals and entities designated by the Committee as:

(a) Acting in violation of the arms embargo established in paragraph 54 of resolution 2127 (2013) and extended by paragraph 1 of this resolution, or as having directly or indirectly supplied, sold, or transferred to armed groups or criminal networks in the CAR, or as having been the recipient of arms or any related materiel, or any technical advice, training, or assistance, including financing and financial assistance, related to violent activities of armed groups or criminal networks in the CAR;

(b) Involved in planning, directing, or committing acts that violate international human rights law or international humanitarian law, as applicable, or that constitute human rights abuses or violations, in the CAR, including, targeting of civilians, ethnic- or religious-based attacks, attacks on schools and hospitals, and abduction and forced displacement;

(c) Involved in planning, directing or committing acts involving sexual and gender-based violence in the CAR;

(d) Recruiting or using children in armed conflict in the CAR, in violation of applicable international law;

(e) Providing support for armed groups or criminal networks through the illicit exploitation or trade of natural resources, including diamonds, gold, wildlife as well as wildlife products in or from the CAR;

(f) Obstructing the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the CAR, or access to, or distribution of, humanitarian assistance in the CAR;

(g) Involved in planning, directing, sponsoring, or conducting attacks against UN missions or international security presences, including MINUSCA, the European Union Missions and French operations which support them;

(h) Being leaders of an entity that the Committee has designated pursuant to paragraphs 36 or 37 of resolution 2134 (2014), paragraphs 11 or 12 of resolution 2196 (2015), paragraphs 12 or 13 of resolution 2262 (2016) or this resolution, or having provided support to, or acted for or on behalf of, or at the direction of, an individual or an entity that the Committee has designated pursuant to paragraphs 36 or 37 of resolution 2134 (2014), paragraphs 11 or 12 of resolution 2196 (2015),

paragraphs 12 or 13 of resolution 2262 (2016) or this resolution, or an entity owned or controlled by a designated individual or entity;

18. *Welcomes* measures taken by Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to implement the Regional Initiative against Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources as endorsed in the 2010 Lusaka Declaration, including promoting the use by economic actors of Due Diligence Frameworks such as the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas, and encourages all States, particularly those in the region, to continue to raise awareness of the due diligence guidelines;

Sanctions Committee

19. *Decides* that the mandate of the Committee shall apply with respect to the measures imposed in paragraphs 54 and 55 of resolution 2127 (2013) and paragraphs 30 and 32 of resolution 2134 (2014) extended by this resolution;

20. *Emphasizes* the importance of holding regular consultations with concerned Member States, international and regional and subregional organizations, as may be necessary, in particular neighbouring and regional States, in order to ensure full implementation of the measures renewed by this resolution, and in that regard encourages the Committee to consider, where and when appropriate, visits to selected countries by the Chair and/or Committee members;

21. *Encourages* all Member States, in particular neighbouring States and Member States of the Economic Community of the Central African States (ECCAS) and of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) to utilize the advance notification and exemption procedures pursuant to paragraph 1 of this resolution to return arms and related materiel of all types belonging to the FACA, or to implement technical assistance, training or other assistance related to military activities by the Central African national security and defence forces, and in this regard requests the Panel of Experts to provide the necessary assistance as per paragraph 28 (b) of this resolution;

22. *Requests* the Committee to identify possible cases of non-compliance with the measures pursuant to paragraphs 1, 2, 5 and 12 above and to determine the appropriate course of action on each case, and requests the Chair, in regular reports to the Council pursuant to paragraph 37 below, to provide progress reports on the Committee's work on this issue;

23. *Recognizes* the KP's decision that the CAR may resume trade in rough diamonds from "compliant zones" established under conditions set forth by the KP, notes that the KP intends to keep the Security Council, the Committee and its Panel of Experts, and MINUSCA informed of its decisions and, requests the KP Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring to periodically update the Committee on the work of the KP CAR Monitoring Team, including any decisions on areas designated as "compliant zones" and decisions related to the trade of the stockpiles of rough diamonds held in the CAR;

24. *Calls for* enhanced vigilance from trading centres and States in the region to support the CAR authorities' efforts to re-establish legitimate trade and benefit from its natural resources; and commends the CAR for taking special

measures to enhance traceability of diamonds from compliant zones so that diamonds are not used for the benefit of armed groups or to destabilize the CAR;

25. *Encourages* the KP to resolve the issue of the diamond stockpiles in cooperation with the CAR authorities and in consultation with the Panel of Experts;

Panel of Experts

26. *Expresses* its full support for the Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic established pursuant to paragraph 59 of resolution 2127 (2013);

27. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Panel of Experts until 28 February 2018, expresses its intent to review the mandate and take appropriate action regarding further extension no later than 31 January 2018 and requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary administrative measures as expeditiously as possible to support its action;

28. *Decides* that the mandate of the Panel of Experts shall include the following tasks, to:

(a) Assist the Committee in carrying out its mandate as specified in this resolution;

(b) Gather, examine and analyse information from States, relevant United Nations bodies, regional organizations and other interested parties regarding the implementation of the measures decided in this resolution, in particular incidents of non-compliance, including to facilitate, upon request by Member States, assistance on capacity-building;

(c) Provide to the Security Council, after discussion with the Committee, a midterm report no later than 30 July 2017, and a final report by 31 December 2017, on the implementation of the measures imposed by paragraphs 54 and 55 of resolution 2127 (2013) and paragraphs 30 and 32 of resolution 2134 (2014) renewed by paragraphs 1, 2, 5 and 12 of this resolution;

(d) Submit progress updates to the Committee, especially in situations of urgency, or as the Panel deems necessary;

(e) Assist the Committee in refining and updating information on the list of individuals and entities designated by the Committee pursuant to the criteria renewed by paragraphs 16 and 17 above including through the provision of biometric information and additional information for the publicly available narrative summary of reasons for listing;

(f) Assist the Committee by providing information regarding individuals and entities that may meet the designation criteria in paragraphs 16 and 17 above, including by reporting such information to the Committee, as it becomes available, and to include in its formal written reports, the names of potential designees, appropriate identifying information, and relevant information regarding why the individual or entity may meet the designation criteria in paragraphs 16 and 17 above;

(g) Cooperate with the KP CAR Monitoring Team to support the resumption of exports of rough diamonds from the CAR and report to the Committee if the resumption of trade is destabilizing the CAR or benefiting armed groups;

29. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide to the Security Council, by 30 May 2017, options for the elaboration of benchmarks, in coordination with EUTM and other active partners in the field of SSR and in consultation with the CAR Authorities, to assess the arms embargo measures according to the progress of the SSR, including FACA and Internal Security Forces and their needs, as well as additional information on the Panel of Experts' recommended arms embargo working group to be potentially established within MINUSCA by the Security Council, including on the composition, tasks, functioning, resource requirements and implication with regards the implementation of MINUSCA's mandate, of such a working group, with reference to previous similar experiences in other UN Peacekeeping Missions;

30. *Calls upon* the Panel of Experts to cooperate actively with other Panels or Groups of Experts established by the Security Council, as relevant to the implementation of their mandate;

31. *Expresses particular concern* about reports of illicit trafficking networks which continue to fund and supply armed groups in the CAR, and encourages the Panel, in the course of carrying out its mandate, to devote special attention to the analysis of such networks;

32. *Urges* the CAR, its neighbouring States and other Member States of the ICGLR to cooperate at the regional level to investigate and combat criminal networks and armed groups involved in the illegal exploitation and smuggling of natural resources including gold, diamonds and wildlife poaching and trafficking;

33. *Urges* all parties, and all Member States, as well as international, regional and subregional organizations to ensure cooperation with the Panel of Experts and the safety of its members;

34. *Further urges* all Member States and all relevant United Nations bodies to ensure unhindered access, in particular to persons, documents and sites in order for the Panel of Experts to execute its mandate;

35. *Requests* the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflict to continue sharing relevant information with the Committee in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 1960 (2010) and paragraph 9 of resolution 1998 (2011);

Reporting and review

36. *Calls upon* all States, particularly those in the region and those in which designated individuals and entities designated are based, to actively implement the measures contained in this resolution and to regularly report to the Committee on the actions they have taken to implement the measures imposed by paragraphs 54 and 55 of resolution 2127 (2013) and paragraphs 30 and 32 of resolution 2134 (2014) renewed by paragraphs 1, 2, 5 and 12 of this resolution;

37. *Requests* the Committee to report orally, through its Chair, at least once per year to the Council, on the state of the overall work of the Committee, including alongside the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the CAR on the

situation in the CAR as appropriate, and encourages the Chair to hold regular briefings for all interested Member States;

38. *Affirms* that it shall keep the situation in the CAR under continuous review and that it shall be prepared to review the appropriateness of the measures contained in this resolution, including the strengthening through additional measures, modification, suspension or lifting of the measures, as may be needed at any time in light of the progress achieved in the stabilization of the country and compliance with this resolution;

39. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
26 January 2017

Original: English

**Letter dated 23 January 2017 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I refer to a letter from my predecessor dated 21 December 2015 (S/2015/1025), in which he informed the President of the Security Council of the progress made by the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, and to her reply dated 23 December 2015 (S/2015/1026), in which she indicated that the members of the Council had taken note of his intention to continue the activities of the United Nations support team to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, with funding from the regular budget. I hereby wish to inform you of the latest achievements and activities of the Mixed Commission.

As you know, the United Nations established the Mixed Commission to facilitate the implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002 on the Cameroon-Nigeria boundary and territorial dispute. With the support of the Secretariat, my predecessor used his good offices to facilitate the implementation of the judgment.

The mandate of the Mixed Commission includes supporting the demarcation of the land boundary and delineation of the maritime boundary, facilitating the withdrawal and transfer of authority, addressing the situation of affected populations and making recommendations on confidence-building measures. Achievements to date in the implementation of the judgment include the withdrawal of Nigeria and the transfer of authority to Cameroon in the Lake Chad area (December 2003), along the land boundary (July 2004) and on the Bakassi Peninsula (a process that began in June 2006 and was completed in August 2008); the delineation of the maritime boundary (May 2007); and the end of the special transitional regime of five years, established under the Greentree Agreement in June 2006, and the exercise by Cameroon of its full rights of sovereignty over the Bakassi zone (August 2013). The Mixed Commission also approved all the recommendations of the Working Group on the Maritime Boundary, including the provisions for cross-border cooperation on hydrocarbon deposits straddling the boundary (March 2011).

In 2016, the Mixed Commission continued to facilitate the demarcation process, including by helping to maintain dialogue and communication between the two countries. Nevertheless, the security situation in parts of north-eastern Nigeria, resulting from attacks by Boko Haram, continued to impede the conduct of the envisaged field visits.



Shortcomings of the in-office cartographic methodology delayed the completion of the remaining cartographic demarcation tasks. In an effort to overcome those shortcomings, a working session was held in August 2016. Solutions were recommended and are currently pending approval by the political authorities of the two countries. The Heads of State of Cameroon and Nigeria have renewed their commitment to resolving the outstanding issues in the cartographic demarcation process.

To date, the parties have agreed on the demarcation of 2,001 km of an estimated 2,100 km of land boundary. In November 2015, the United Nations support team held bilateral meetings and working sessions with the Cameroonian delegation to record and confirm toponyms for the final mapping. A similar exercise will be undertaken with the Nigerian delegation during the first quarter of 2017.

Meanwhile, the construction and emplacement of pillars to physically mark the land boundary has continued. Of the estimated 2,696 pillars that will be required, 903 have already been successfully constructed. In line with the completion strategy for the period 2015-2017, the construction and emplacement of an additional 238 pillars in lot 3, located in the central area of the land border, was completed in late March 2016. Construction is currently under way for the emplacement of an additional lot of 163 pillars by mid-2017. During the meeting of the heads of delegation in Yaoundé in October 2014, the parties formally expressed their willingness to make additional, individual contributions of resources towards the construction of the remaining 1,800 pillars required for the pillar emplacement project under the trust fund and also agreed to call upon international donors for renewed assistance. Since then, both parties have each pledged \$1.5 million towards the replenishment of the trust fund. Additional fundraising initiatives were undertaken by my Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel and Chair of the Mixed Commission, Mohammed Ibn Chambas, who travelled for this purpose to France, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as to the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, in October 2016.

Supplementary resources remain required to implement joint cross-border programmes in support of those affected by the demarcation. This includes funding for quick-impact projects for confidence-building among communities, with a particular focus on women and young people. In Cameroon, projects focused on food security and microcredit, access to drinking water, green energy, capacity-building for women, youth employment and protection of civilians in Bakassi and in the Far North region have been updated at the request of the Government to reflect demographic changes brought about by the terrorist activities of Boko Haram. The relevant documentation was endorsed and validated by the Government on 6 May 2016.

A programme document was submitted for endorsement by the Government of Nigeria (National Boundary Commission) in October 2016. The Chair of the Mixed Commission will seek extrabudgetary resources to help in the implementation of confidence-building projects, consistent with the revised United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks for both countries.

Meanwhile, the United Nations support team continues to work with the support of the Geospatial Information Section of the Department of Field Support of the Secretariat to produce maps to be annexed to the boundary statement. The collection

of toponyms was completed in 2016 and it is anticipated that the final mapping will be determined during the next working session, to be held early in 2017.

Overall, it is expected that the field assessment of the remaining areas of the boundary will be completed by the end of 2017. This, in turn, would facilitate progress with the finalization of the demarcation process, the completion of pillar emplacement operations and the production of final maps and a boundary statement. Through the good offices of my Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel, in his capacity as Chair of the Mixed Commission, the Presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria pledged in May 2016 their commitment to completing the demarcation of their joint border. The completion of the bulk of the demarcation work depends on the willingness of the two parties to formalize an agreement on all outstanding issues.

The following activities remain required in order to conclude the work of the Mixed Commission:

- (a) Agreement on the remaining outstanding areas using in-office, desktop evaluation and demarcation methodology;
- (b) Facilitation of the construction and emplacement of boundary pillars financed by the trust fund for the demarcation activities;
- (c) Production of the final maps and the boundary statement;
- (d) Promotion of cross-border cooperation, including maritime cooperation, and coordinated security monitoring along the land boundary;
- (e) Finalization of confidence-building initiatives for local communities affected by the demarcation;
- (f) Implementation of the completion strategy by progressively handing over the activities of the Mixed Commission to the Joint Bilateral Commission and other subregional structures.

Until 2003, the Mixed Commission was funded entirely from extrabudgetary resources. Thereafter, from 2004 to 2016, its activities were funded through the regular budget. The Governments of Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and Uruguay have provided in-kind contributions for the substantive and technical work of the Commission (military and legal experts), in addition to the logistical support provided by the Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, and the voluntary contributions of both countries, as well as those of Canada, the United Kingdom and the European Union, to the trust fund for the demarcation activities.

As has been the case in recent years, and given the cost-effectiveness of the operation and the important tasks remaining at this juncture to help to advance the peaceful implementation of the judgment of the International Court of Justice, it is hoped that there will be approval of the Secretariat's request for continued resources from the regular budget for the United Nations support team, covering the year 2017.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) António Guterres



Security Council

Distr.: General
26 January 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 26 January 2017 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 23 January 2017 (S/2017/78), concerning your intention to continue the activities of the United Nations support team to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission, with funding from the regular budget, has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the information contained in your letter and the intention expressed therein.

(Signed) Olof **Skoog**
President of the Security Council



**General Assembly
Security Council**

Distr.: General
30 January 2017
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 34
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-second year

**Identical letters dated 25 January 2017 from the Permanent
Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

Upon instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that Israel persists in violating Lebanese sovereignty and has failed to comply with all relevant international resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). We periodically inform you of such violations, most recently in the list of Israeli air, sea and land violations of Lebanese sovereignty that was issued as a document of the Security Council (A/71/700-S/2016/1084). In addition, the Permanent Mission of Israel continues to send you letters that contain rumours, in an attempt to spread misinformation and obscure its repeated violation of its international obligations. The letter of the Permanent Representative of Israel dated 23 November 2016, for example, contains fabrications and false claims. We should therefore like to convey to you the following response from the Ministry of National Defence:

The Ministry of National Defence is fully committed to implementing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), especially with respect to the prohibition on the entry or smuggling of weapons to any party whatsoever through Lebanese State facilities. The claims made in this regard by the Israeli enemy, unsupported by any tangible evidence, are an utter fabrication involving imaginary facts. They constitute a standing pretext for any attacks by the Israeli enemy.

I reiterate that my Government respects its obligations pursuant to international resolutions. On behalf of my country I call on the Security Council to condemn those attacks in the strongest possible terms, and I call on Israel to cease its violations of Lebanese sovereignty and implement all of its duties under Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). The most recent such violation occurred on 24 January 2017, when Israel conducted military exercises in the area of the occupied Shab'a Farms, during which heavy weapons and live ammunition were used. Israeli warplanes also violated Lebanese airspace during those exercises. We have continually warned of the consequences of Israel's provocative and unilateral



actions, as they undermine the joint efforts of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the Lebanese Army to preserve stability in southern Lebanon.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nawaf Salam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative